



Kono Subarashii Sekai ni Shukufuku o!

by Akatsuki Natsume

Novel Updates

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Volume 1 Digital Edition Short Story - From the Digital Edition: Aqua-sensei

“Sensei! You’re Aqua-sensei, right!?”

As Aqua and I were taking a walk through town, a well-dressed gentleman approached us.

...Aqua-sensei?

“Hm? You’re that person from what’s-it-called house right? What a coincidence.”

“W-, What’s-it-called house... Aqua-sensei, may I ask where you are headed today? My master constantly asks me ‘Has Aqua-sensei’s next work been revealed?’ and is excitedly awaiting your next artwork...”

The man that called Aqua ‘sensei’ seemed to be the butler of some famous household.

“That just bothers me more though. I only drew something as an apology for the piece that I broke. No matter how much you pay me, I just don’t really feel like drawing.”

“Please I beg you! Sensei’s piece has been well-received by other nobles as well... If you would like a reward, there are many other options as well...”

“O-, Oi Aqua, what the heck happened? I don’t really get it, so could you explain?”

Unable to read the situation, I turned to ask Aqua.

“A while back, I was teaching the children in the neighborhood how to play baseball, and we were just playing around, you see? Then I hit a super comeback out-of-the-park ball. It broke the window of some distinguished person’s mansion and destroyed the piece of artwork that decorated the hallway.”

“Then, since sensei did not have the money to compensate for the damage,

she offered to draw a new piece in exchange... The work was more than enough to compensate. Rather, it was so wonderful, that it is now my master's family heirloom..."

"Amazing! Actually, is it really? To be honest, I don't really know what to say anymore..."

"Wait no. To be able to scribble something that makes nobles cry out in admiration really is amazing, but the reason the artwork was destroyed is... Oh you little..."

"Anyway, I'm not an artist so I won't take any money. I need to go right now to mess with a certain store that doesn't have any customers, so I'll have to turn you down."

"W-, Why... Aqua-sensei, I will not give up...!"

The gentleman painstakingly left.

"If you're that good at drawing can't you just take him up on his offer?"

"No way. I'm a goddess, you know? An archpriest, you know? I have some pride for what I do. Well, not like a shut-in who's never worked a day in their life would understand!"

As I grabbed ahold of Aqua and concocted a plan to make her beg for mercy, someone suddenly showed up to intervene.

"Master! What is happening master!? Who is this man? Is he some sort of hoodlum!?"

"Ah, you're that disciple person! This man is an evil existence who is trying to harm me! Beat him down! Use the power that you're so proud of to beat him down!"

"Please leave this to me, master!"

"Hey, wait-...!"

—In response to Aqua's disciple who suddenly appeared and attacked me, I used 'Drain Touch' to render him immobile.

Breathing heavily, I looked down at the man who couldn't move after his

magic power was drained.

"T-, The heck is this guy supposed to be!? And what's 'master' supposed to mean!? Explain properly!"

"This person is my self-proclaimed disciple. I think he's a sculptor or something. When I was engraving the holy symbol of the Axis Cult on the door of Wiz's shop to kill time, he was like 'what amazing skill!' and kinda became my disciple or something like that."

"J-, Just give it a rest already. Wiz can't get into the store if you do that, right? Anyway, you've been wandering about doing this and that when I haven't been paying attention huh. Wandering aside, it's not like you're a dog or cat, so just come on and admit it already. You're interested in this sort of thing, right? It'd be better to just be honest with yourself, you know?"

"You should be the one to admit it already! Recognize me for who I am! I mean, just who do you think I am, anyway!? Tell me, who am I, and what is my profession?"

"The airhead artist Aqua-san?"

"It's the archpriest Aqua-sama! The heavens are telling me that your face wants a piece of this holy fist!"

As Aqua angrily moved to catch me—

A girl who was running by us suddenly turned around.

She slipped from her momentum and ended up grazing her arms and knees.

"Uuu...waaaaahhhh-!"

Just like that, the girl began to sob like a certain crybaby I know.

Aqua leaned towards the girl—

"Heal'! ...Alright, it doesn't hurt anymore, right? Now, get up. It would be a waste of your cuteness if you cry alright?"

Such archpriest-like thing....

"Gu..., hic..."

"Geez, I guess it can't be helped then. I'll show you something good, alright?"

Now, inside the handkerchief is, woah....”

Although she didn’t seem like she would stop crying anytime soon, she stopped immediately when she saw Aqua’s art.

...Since Aqua was doing an archpriest-like thing for once, I’ll do my best to back her up.

I turned away from Aqua and the girl, and headed towards a stand where an old man was selling roast skewers...

“Look, there are so many thin-winged violet-red butterflies! For your knowledge, it’s a heavily protected monster species...!”

“Amazing onee-chan! Amazing! Amazing... I-, It’s super-duper... a-, amazing....”

I hurriedly turned to look, but there was already a huge crowd of onlookers.

“Oi girl, show me one more time!”

“O-, Onee-chan, I want to see it one more time...!”

“One more time!” “One more time!”

“That just bothers me though. You can form a crowd all you like, but it really just makes me feel bothered though. I’m a priest, so it really bothers me if you ask me for art though!”

I think you really need to get a class-change.

Volume 1 Digital Edition Short Story: Megumin the Dragon Slayer

At a quarry close to town.

“Right, Ojou-chan, I’ll leave it in your hands.”

“Heh, leave it to me. Feast your eyes, for I shall demonstrate a glimpse of my true power right here! Were I serious, this entire quarry...! Ah, could you stand a little bit further back? Yeah, there’ll do.”

The chief civil engineer and Megumin were discussing how to proceed with their blast.

However...

“Why do I have to accompany you?”

“I don’t have a choice. I won’t be able to move after using my magic, so I’ll need you to carry me home.”

For some reason, I was dragged along to the quarry too.

“I don’t need to be here for that. You could just let the civil engineer uncle carry you back. He’s probably stronger than I am.”

“What kind of nonsense are you saying? Take a look at this heavyset, beastlike man. If I was left alone with this man, unable to move, who knows what he would do to a frail girl like me?”

“That won’t happen!”

“Hey! Why are you two screaming like that!? Why don’t you explain it to me in detail!?”

Megumin raised her staff, her eyes glowing red. Seeing that, the civil engineer hastily said,

“W-Well, leaving that aside, our objective is that giant boulder. We can’t get to work with that in the way. I discussed this issue with the guild, and they recommended you to me. So, what do you think? Are you up to it?”

“Of course! My name is Megumin! The one who will eventually slay the Demon King! A rock like that is but a pittance compared to...”

“Pii~! Pii~!”

....?

A bird-like cry suddenly rang out, causing us to exchange confused looks.

Looking closely at that boulder, I could see a bird nest-like object perched on the top.

“Oh, that’s a wyvern! A wyvern hatchling! My god, to think that something like this could be nesting so close to town... But it’s good that you are here, Ojou-chan. Blow it away along with that rock. It may be a hatchling, but wyverns are highly aggressive carnivores. If we let it be, it’ll cause widespread damage in the future. Its parents aren’t here, so it’s a great chance to get rid of it.”

“Ah!”

Hearing the engineer’s words, Megumin let out a squeak.

Megumin looked at the small wyvern as it constantly chirped.

It’s probably tough for her to end such a defenceless creature, but as adventurers, we can’t let dangerous monsters roam free.

Furthermore, the target is a wyvern. When it grows up, it’ll definitely become a serious threat to humanity.

But Megumin...

“U..uuu...”

Had an uncertain expression on her face, and didn’t move.

In the end, Megumin opted not to cast her spell, and dejectedly hung her head before us.

Seeing her, the engineer scratched his head and smiled.

“Hah, well, I guess it can’t be helped! It’s probably too cruel a job for an Ojou-chan. I’ll call you back to destroy that boulder after the wyvern has left the nest!”

The engineer let out a hearty laugh.

Megumin seemed to brighten up upon hearing his words.

“Let’s take it down in a proper battle once it’s grown up.”

I said with a smile.

“Still, you missed out on a great chance there, Ojou-chan. It may be young, but you’d still become a Wyvern Slayer after killing it. And wyverns are also a type of dragon. You’ll be able to call yourself a Dragon Slayer after that.”

The engineer joked.

I joined in his laughter.

“You can call yourself a Dragon Slayer even if you defeat a hatchling? That’s nice, isn’t it? It definitely sounds like the title of a hero who will defeat the Demon King-”

“Explosion-!”

Megumin interrupted me with her spell.

At the same time, a loud boom resonated throughout the quarry, followed by a strong shockwave.

The sudden spell gave us no time to prepare ourselves, and the engineer and I both ended up getting blown over.

Laying on the ground, I slightly shifted to look at my surroundings.

The engineer must have hit himself on the head; he was showing the whites of his eyes and seemed completely out of it.

On the other side, Megumin lay collapsed on the ground after expending her magic. Without lifting her head, she proudly said,

“My name is Megumin! Wielder of explosion magic, and the one who defeated a dragon! Kazuma, please call me ‘Dragon Slayer Megumin’ from now on.”

“You little piece of... Can’t you just let things end happily for once!?”

Volume 2 Digital Edition Short Story The Crimson Magic Clansmen have High Intelligence

Both Akashic and Continued are in editing now, expect both soon-ish.

Translator: yuNS

Editor: Keel the Swift

Volume 2 – Special Short Story:

From the Digital Edition: Crimson Magic Clansmen have High Intelligence

“I won’t accept this! One more time! Please, just one more time!”

On a mild afternoon of drizzling rain—

In the living room of the mansion, Megumin began to shout.

Due to the rain, we had decided to take a rest from work and requests for today.

Aqua had dozed off next to the fireplace, and sitting beside her, Darkness was performing repairs on her armor.

And so—

“Fu-, try as you might, it’s all pointless in the end, Megumin-kun. If we’re playing a game with actual rules, there’s no way you can beat me, a real gamer.”

“Nnngg...! Crimson Magic Clansmen have high intelligence, so I won’t accept losing at a game of wits...!”

Megumin and I amused ourselves for the time being with a certain board game.

Of course, the board game in question was none other than ‘SHOGI’.

“Ugh... Since I can’t use ‘Teleport’ and ‘Explosion’, I can’t use any reckless

strategies... What should I do..."

This world had board games similar to chess and shogi.

However, since this game existed in a world with magic, questionable moves such as teleport, which allowed the user to move freely across the board, and explosion, which allowed the user to flip the board over, existed.

"To be honest, I don't get why a game with such stupid rules even exists. So anyway, whatcha gonna do? You ready to give up? The loser gets a wrist slap, you know?"

"NNNNNNNGGGGG...!"

Hearing about the punishment, Darkness, who was busy polishing her armor, began to act jumpy.

If I play a match with her, she'll definitely throw the match on purpose for the punishment.

"Then... I-, I'll put this here..."

"Alrighty~! I've been waiting for this! Rook to check—!"

"AAAAAHHH! Wait wait, that doesn't count! Wait please!"

As Megumin, who refused to give up, released a teary yell, I swung my fingers with great force to carry out the punishment.

"...Ugh. I lost again... At this rate, my one-day-one-explosion policy will be..."

"Give it up already. On a rainy day like this it's better to just sit around and play some games."

I said as I cleaned up the shogi board. Megumin's wrist had already grown red from all the slaps.

If I won, she'd get a slap on the wrist.

If I lost, then I would have to go on an explosion walk with Megumin on this rainy day.

As I tidied up my homemade shogi board, I pulled out my handmade deck of cards.

"Let's play poker next. Since you're so smart I don't need to explain the rules to you, right?"

"I refuse to play this game! Even though it isn't a game of pure luck, I don't think I'll ever win against you!"

Then—

Someone knocked loudly on the door of the mansion.

I set the cards on the table, and went to get the door.

"...It's a male. The visitor is male."

Megumin suddenly murmured that.

"...Oho? So you want to play that game huh? I'll say that the visitor is female."

I fired a confident smile, and in turn, I received a smile as well.

"Fufu, it seems like you're underestimating the brains of a crimson magic clansman. I have a reason to believe that the visitor is male! To start with, this mansion doesn't get many visitors! Next, the kind of people that are most likely to visit this mansion are probably newspaper salesmen or postmen! These two jobs are practically dominated by men! That is why the visitor is male!"

As Megumin confidently announced her reason, I opened the door.

"Good afternoon! Is Darkness here? ...Hm? What's is it you two? Why are you so happy, and did she just faceplant onto the couch?"

Waiting at the door was Darkness' friend, the female thief Chris.

"I win!"

"Why is it Chris!? At this time of the day, who else could it be but the postman!?"

Chris tilted her head in puzzlement, and then entered the mansion.

"...What's with these two?"

"Don't worry about it. They're just messing around, so just leave it be."

Chris took a seat next to Darkness and gazed towards me as I entered my wrist-slapping stance.

"Actually, yesterday I heard Darkness and Chris talking about how it was going to rain today. Since it was going to rain, and Chris had nothing to do, she said she would come over today to play."

"What the heck is that!? That's unfair!"

"What's unfair about that? I merely prepared for a battle...!"

As we were arguing—

Someone knocked on the door again.

““.....””

Megumin and I speechlessly turned to face each other.

"It's a male! It will be a male this time! The reason is the same as I said before!"

"H-, Hey wait a second! Why do you get to choose first? You went first last time so I get to choose first this time around. I also predict that it will be a male...!"

I knew that Chris was coming, so I predicted female last time, but this time around I have a feeling that Megumin was right.

"I said that's unfair! Bet on female please Kazuma!"

"No wait, how about we settle this with rock paper scissors..."

As our argument intensified, Darkness said:

(TL: yuNS @ www.crimsonmagic.me) "That's enough already, just hurry up and open the door."

Notes:

- If you haven't figured it out already, take a moment to think about why Kazuma suggested rock paper scissors.
- PDF/Epub makers: There's some invisible text before the last line (in white), so remove that when you make your PDF, it's to prevent low-effort copying/reposting, which has been frequent with this site from what I've seen.

Volume 2 Short Story: Megumin the Ripper

<TL Note: For those of you that aren't familiar, the plot of this short story is centered Jack the Ripper, who was an unknown serial killer in 19th century London. This unknown figure was well-known for 'ripping' the person's stomach during his/her murders.>

"On this occasion, I present to everyone the favorite sword of 'Shack the Ripper'. I would like all the magicians here to help investigate this details of this weapon."

As the guild employee said that, she placed a blade on the table.

—I had been invited to the guild by Megumin, but to be honest, the only reason I'm here is because I had some free time.

"...Hey Megumin, What is this 'Shack the Ripper'?"

If I remember correctly, there was a mass murderer with a similar name back on earth.

"Shack was an extraordinary swordsman who had some seriously amazing proficiency with the sword. For some reason, he won't lay a scratch on his opponent's bodies. Well, basically, he was a depraved pervert that would only 'rip' the opponent's clothes."

What? Isn't that amazing? I mean, he could rip the opponent's clothes apart without leaving a scratch on their body. Shouldn't he be called a true expert in the art of ripping clothes?

"That sword is undoubtedly the one that Shack used. By the way, Shack's hideout was discovered in this town the other day, and they managed to retrieve this sword from there..."

The employee gave a rather vague description.

"Actually, the weapon identifiers determined that this is a cursed blade that has been enchanted with powerful magic... When we passed it to someone with

the swordsman job to try it out, they reported that the sword was too dull to defeat a kobold..."

An extraordinary pervert's... No, an extraordinary swordsman's favorite sword, huh.

"Could it be something like that? You know, like how legendary swords choose their owners..."

Though I had said this without thinking, the entire guild, for one reason or another, fell into a state of commotion.

Finally, one adventurer picked up the sword, and without any real intention, looked closely at the bladed edge.

—Then, the guild doors were flung open.

"Hah... Excuse me—! I have completed the request 'Capture the neroid that escaped from the tavern' without any problems—! I would like an employee to confirm the neroids!"

A female warrior energetically cried out through the guild.

At her feet was a cage filled with mysterious creatures that were hard to describe.

—I don't know what the adventurer who picked up Shack's sword was thinking, but he suddenly swung it at the neroid!

"Ah—!?"

"Mya—"

The neroid which was slashed by the sword let out a frightened cry, but there was not a single wound on it.

Seeing that, the adventurer – as if losing strength – fell to one knee.

"Damn... I wasn't recognized by this sword..."

"Y-, You, what are you doing all of a sudden!? I finally managed to capture it so what are you trying to do!?"

The female warrior lashed out at the man.

“Ah-!?”

She shrieked...

“Nyan~”

“...Damnit! I’m not it either huh....!”

“What is this!? Hey, what is happening!? Do you guys really hate me... Wha-, Stop!”

As the female warrior continued to cry out, everyone else took turns with Shack’s sword to slash the innocent neroid.

In the end, there was not a single cut on the caged neroid, and the sword was returned to the table.

...I tried once as well, but it didn’t work either.

“Hmm, I wonder. Could it be that this sword can’t be used by anyone other than a pervert? However, if that’s the case, then...”

“...Oi, you’re looking at me aren’t you. Can I hear your reason?”

“I-Its nothing, it nothing alright?”

Then, Megumin – as if trying to cheat – reached out for the sword and...

—Cut the table that the sword was placed on in half.

“!!!!!!”

Realizing that Megumin had somehow ripped the table in two pieces, everyone in the guild froze in surprise.

“...Could it be...that Megumin-san is the one chosen by the sword...?”

In response to the employee’s mutter, everyone gulped audibly.

—Then, Megumin wordlessly approached the neroid; sword in hand.

“!/? W-, What are you trying to do! Just stop this already, otherwise I won’t be able to fulfill the request! I mean, why is everybody slashing the neroid that I captured! What did I do wrong!?”

As Megumin brandished the sword and slashed the neroid, the female warrior became silent.

"-...!? ...Huh!? Nothing really-.....Ahhhhh-!"

The female warrior who had instinctively closed her eyes, reopened her eyes, and saw that the lock of the neroid's cage had been cut apart.

"I have cut a worthless object..."

<TL Note: This is Goemon Ishikawa's catchphrase from Lupin the 3rd. He typically says it after an amazing feat of swordsmanship.>

"Waitttt! After all the trouble I went through to catch it, so why—!?"

As Megumin was drowned in her own satisfaction, the female warrior frantically chased after the escaped neroid.

""""WOAHHHHH!"""

The people of the guild burst in excitement, and began to present random things to Megumin.

"Oi oi, can that sword really cut anything!? Can you spare a sec to cut this for me!?"

"M-, Me too! I can't open the cap to this thing!"

No matter what was presented to her, she cut them apart with ease.

It's the real thing! It's a really cursed sword!

I borrowed the sword from Megumin, and gave it another try.

Maybe it's because I wasn't recognized by the sword or something, but I could only leave a scratch on a piece of metal.

The excited guild employee ran towards Megumin and clasped her hands.

"Megumin-san! Please excuse my behavior, but I have a special request for you. The contents of the request are to test the cutting capabilities of that sword, and find the limit its power. As for the reward...would this do?"

The amount of the employee suggested was definitely not a small amount.

"Fuu...Well, why not? I suppose."

Megumin attached the sword to her belt, and gave an exaggerated nod.

I can't help but feel that there was some slight misunderstanding.



"Sensei, please help with this as well! I can't bring myself to destroy this letter from my ex-girlfriend!"

"Sensei, my little brother was somehow trapped in this wooden crate, and I can't open it! Please help me!"

"Sensei! This is about my boss' secret stash, but I can't open the door to his safe! Could I ask you to open it!?"

Since the guild reported that it would cut apart anything as a service, the townspeople flooded in one after another with requests to cut certain objects.

...More importantly, aren't there some things that could be cut without using the cursed sword, or some things that we really should be cutting up?

Whilst I was busy with my straight-man thoughts, Megumin had already moved on to cut the next object.

And then, she cut and cut and cut and cut and cut.

Finally, by sunset, the crowd ceased to continue.

Dyed in the orange light of the sunset, Megumin—

"Kazuma...Something like 'the peak of mastery' is such a vain thing, isn't it...?"

"Y-You...Even though you just got the sword and experienced a sudden power-up, why are you acting like a master swordsman?"

Despite my straight-man act, Megumin's affectation stayed the same.

"Kazuma...for the last thing, I want you accompany me to face my nemesis."

Megumin showed a serious expression.

"My great self, that had fought a hard battle against the giant toads... With explosion magic, I wouldn't be able to defeat two of them... However, if it's the current me! ...Yes, this is the time to show the fruit of my progress! It is the time for our ultimate showdown!"

"You're talking about a showdown, but weren't you just gobbled up last time?"

On the plains a short distance from down, dyed in the burning light of the sunset, Megumin faced off with a giant toad.

Since this girl got called 'Sensei' by the townspeople, she began to show this strange behavior.

Currently, the giant toad – as if ignoring Megumin – didn’t even budge.

...Well, if it’s the current Megumin, she probably won’t be swallowed like she was before.

As I optimistically observed the scene...

“Ahh, there you are! Kazuma-san, Megumin-san! It’s been found!”

I turned towards the guild employee with a puzzled expression...

“Actually, about that cursed sword... After looking through Shack’s hideout, we managed to understand its secret. That sword uses magic power to cut any object, so people with high magic power would be able to use it with ease... Also, the blade of the sword isn’t able to cut through living organisms, and that was probably the secret behind how Shack ripped through people’s clothes... So, if you use that sword to fight monsters...”

Then, the employee abruptly stopped.

—She too, witnessed Megumin being swallowed by the giant toad.

Volume 3 Digital Edition Short Story:

Crusader of the Sleeping Forest

<TL Note: A reference to Sleeping Beauty, in Japan, the tale is known as “Beauty of the Sleeping Forest”.>

“Kazuma, I want you to hit me.”

The pervert amongst my party members requested that I do this broad daylight smack in the middle of the bustling guild.

...I couldn't find the words to reply. I faced Darkness with as serious of an expression as I could muster, and lightly slapped her face.

“Apfft—!? W-, What are you doing!? Who said to hit there!?”

Darkness, whose face was now slightly red, grabbed onto my extended hand and gave me a verbal lashing.

You tell me to hit you then you tell me not to hit you there?

“What do you want me to do? Just to let you know, I have some stuff I need to go do as well, so I'm not gonna go along with those depraved hobbies of yours, alright? Afternoon today, a favorite store of mine is having a rock-paper-scissors tournament for their regulars. From what I heard it seems that whoever wins will get a ‘special course’ ticket. I haven't lost a single rock-paper-scissor game to this day, so I will definitely join in.”

“A favorite store of yours...? Special course ticket...? Was there a store like that? What kind of store is it? Is this related to your occasional sleep-outs during weekends?”

“N-N-N-, Not really-!? My occasional sleep-outs are, oh, yeah I'm just drinking with my male buddies you know!? More importantly, why did you tell me to hit you!?”

As I desperately tried to change the topic, Darkness seemed to have a sudden realization.

"That's right, this is not the time to do this! Kazuma, come with me for a second, I have something to talk to you about!"

"...Siren?"

"That's right. There's a stray siren living in the forest next to town. As of now, I'm pretty sure we're the only ones that know this."

—Darkness had dragged me to a corner of the guild and whispered the details to my ear.

"By siren, you mean the kind of monster that sings to charm people?"

"Mhm, the kind that leads people's hearts astray and puts them to sleep. Originally, they're a type of sea-spirit that only inhabits oceans, but..."

When she left early in the morning to go the forest and train, it seems that she heard a very beautiful singing.

Following the sound to its source, she found a female-type monster whose lower half was that of a bird.

"So what did you do after that?"

"After that, as I was listening to the song, I was assaulted by drowsiness so to speak. By the time I had awoken, I found myself alone in the middle of the forest. As a lone female sleeping defenselessly in the middle of a deserted forest... If something had gone wrong, I might have even fallen into the hands of some pervert...!"

Ignoring the flushed-faced pervert who restlessly squirmed, I reviewed the situation.

Why would a sea-spirit appear on land?

"If we leave her alone won't someone eventually subjugate her? Report it to the receptionist, would you?"

"Sirens are pure spirits. Although they do cause harm to humans, they're friendly spirits at their cores. It would be easy to just report it, but if they just happened to get lost, then I want to do everything I can to help her."

Darkness had quite the serious expression. What happened to the regrettable

pervert a moment ago?

"It should be just ahead. I heard the singing somewhere around here, but..."

Darkness brought me here to the forest, where we walked along.

I want to get the special course ticket by all means, so I should get this over before the event starts, but then—

"...I hear some singing."

"Ah, that's the voice."

As we were drawn in by the voice, we found a female whose lower body was that of a bird singing with her eyes closed.

Her singing was beautiful, yet somewhat lonely.

"It's as if she was called over by someone... There might be some sort of being around here that can cause water and sea-spirits to gather... So the siren might have been drawn in as a result..."

Darkness murmured th—... Hey, Oi.

"...There's someone who can communicate on a spiritual level with that siren, I think."

Rather, all this might just be that girl's fault.

"Really!? Alright, I'll stay here and keep watch. Kazuma, hurry back to town and..."

After saying that much, Darkness' eyelids seem to droop...

"Hey, get up! You'll die if you fall asleep!"

"Hapa-!? Aah, s-, sorry...! But still, falling asleep doesn't mean that I will die, so you don't have to slap my face so hard... Ah no, actually, it'd probably be better if you hit me a little harder...!"

After forcing Darkness awake, I was also struck with drowsiness—

"Wake up! Come on, wake up Kazuma!"

"OWW—!"

Darkness punched me in the face to force me awake... T-, This friggin' cunt—!

And so, we kept hitting each other for a good while... Then suddenly, I remembered what the heck we were here to do, and regained my senses.

This isn't the time to be doing this. I should be calling the true culprit for this mess over. 'Culprit' being Aqua. It was then—

"...? What's this? ...Earplugs?"

Darkness, who had approached the siren at some point, pulled those out of the siren's ears.

...To think that a spirit that charmed using songs would use earplugs... This was kinda surreal actually.

The siren, who had her earplugs pulled out, immediately opened her eyes.

Then, the siren, who just realized that Darkness and I were here, widened her eyes in surprise and took deep breaths—!

...When I opened my eyes, everything around me was a dark shade of red.

It seems that we took an all-out song from the surprised siren.

Beside me, Darkness and the siren were still sleeping.

Since the siren was still sleeping, this was the right time to go call Aqua...

Then, as I was thinking that, I realized... it was already evening.

Huh... What about the rock-paper-scissors tournament at the succubus store...?

Volume 3 Digital Edition Short Story: Explosion is Art

—Klein Gilbert

This man is an extremely talented artist. It's said that there's not a single person in the artistic community who has not heard of his name.

He's originally the third son of a impoverished noble family, but he has single handedly restored the glory and finances of his house with his artistic genius. Right now he can be considered to be an influential aristocrat in this country, as well as being a famous celebrity.

“I'll gladly accept your request!”

“Oh, thank you very much, Megumin-san!”

And that man has been talking animatedly with Megumin for the past few minutes.

— Megumin was summoned by the guild.

I originally thought she ended up causing some kind of trouble again and went with her to apologize, but it turned out that this famous noble Gilbert had a special request for her.

And that request is...

“Explosion is art! I didn't think the day would come when I'd be able to see Explosion, a spell far superior to Blast or Detonation, with my own eyes!”

“You're right! You're absolutely right, sensei! Explosion is art! Blast? Detonation? No, only Explosion can be said to be true art! Very well, I'll let Klein-sensei witness the splendour of my greatest magic!”

... Well, you get the idea.

I've heard that artists are a quirky bunch, but I didn't expect him to be so compatible with the maniac in my party.

This explosion-obsessed artist traveled all the way to Axel from the capital

after hearing that Megumin could use Explosion.

The two of them have been excitedly chatting about stuff I couldn't comprehend ever since they met.

I want to go home.

I really want to go home, but for some reason I get the feeling that it'd be very dangerous to leave the two of them unsupervised.

"Kazuma, what are you waiting for? Let's go! I'm feeling really great today. I'll definitely be able to unleash the best Explosion ever like this!"

"How wonderful! I'm looking forward to your performance, Megumin-san!"

Megumin dragged on my shirt and brought me outside the guild.

...I'm getting a really bad feeling about this.

"– There really is a clear difference between the work of Klein-sensei and the other painters. In particular, the 'Exploding man amongst the glittering sunset' is truly marvelous."

What do you mean by exploding man?

I don't really want to see such a sight, though I'm a little curious as to what kind of painting would have such a title.



Hearing Megumin excitedly sing his praises as they walked down the streets, Gilbert cordially said,

"There's no need to address me as Klein-sensei. Just Gilbert will do, Megumin-san."

Come to think of it, he didn't ask any questions or even waver at all upon hearing Megumin's name during her introduction.

In fact, he even said it's a wonderful name bursting with personality and originality.

Seems like artists really do see the world differently from regular people.

"Anyway, Gilbert-san, you said you wanted to see Megumin's Explosion, right? Where are we headed?"

"Address me as Klein-sensei, Kazuma-san. Ah, here we are. That's it. I would like you to use your explosion magic on that."

... What's with this difference in treatment between me and Megumin? I really want to slap him in the face.

I looked over to where Gilbert was pointing...

"... Isn't that the Eris Church building?"

Hearing my question, Gilbert nodded contentedly.

"Indeed, it's the church of the detestable Eris Church. I'm a devoted follower of the Axis Cult, you see. The destruction of a church of Eris through Explosion shall definitely create a wonderful sight full of artistic merit..."

"Very well, stand back."

"Don't do that! Stop chanting in the middle of the town! Hey, don't think you can do anything just because you are a famous noble! Blowing up a church is no laughing matter!"

After getting restrained by me, Megumin and Gilbert shot me disappointed looks.

"Okay, fine, how about changing the target to that run down magic item shop that looks like it'd run out of business any day now?"

"I know the person who runs that shop, but alright, let's go with that."

"I told you not to start chanting in the middle of town! That shop looks to be

run down, but it's still in business! It just doesn't get that many customers! The store owner is still working hard every day!"

This scene played out over and over again as they walked down the streets, the two of them suggesting using everything they see as a target and me having to repeatedly stop them.

Dammit, this is really grating on my nerves. I should just forget about those two and go home.

... No, if I do that, I'll definitely end up having to clean up after them.

Noble or no, I should just abandon him in the outskirts and run.

Just when I thought of such a solution-

"I told you right from the start, there's no way we'll be able to complete it in such a short time!"

I heard a familiar voice.

This is the voice of the foreman whom Aqua and I worked under back when we first came to this world.

The foreman seems to be involved in a dispute with an opulently dressed man.

"I don't care, finish dismantling it by today! I won't pay unless it's done by the end of the day! Or what, do you think you'll be able to get another job in this town after going against a noble? If you understand, then hurry up and get to work!"

The opulently dressed man gave such an unreasonable ultimatum to the foreman.

"First Klein-san and now that man... Are all nobles like this?"

I muttered with a sigh, and Gilbert disdainfully refuted,

"Please, call me Klein-sensei. And that man is an embarrassment to the nobility! Don't lump him together with me! He's probably an upstart who bought his title with money. I've never seen his face before."

I suspiciously looked him, trying to decide if he's trying to be humble or

bragging about his own superiority.

Just then, Gilbert exclaimed.

“Inspiration has struck me, Megumin-san! I’ve decided on the best situation to bring out the splendour of Explosion!”

“Oh, I’m all ears, sensei! Let me show you the ultimate Explosion!”

Hearing Megumin’s words, Gilbert pointed at the noble and said,

“... That upstart seems to want his mansion torn down by today. Blowing up his extravagant mansion right in front of that upstart... What do you think? Isn’t it overflowing with artistic merit?”

“Indeed! I too feel that it’d be worth a lot of points!”

My attention having been drawn away by the argument of the foreman, I was too late in stopping Megumin from chanting.

“Hey, wait-”

“Alright, Megumin-san, please show me the pinnacle of art! Don’t worry, I’ll take responsibility for this. I’ll handle the damage to the surroundings, so go ahead and unleash your full power!”

“Very well, sensei! Explosion~!”

—An explosive flower bloomed above the town—

Not only was the mansion blown to pieces, but the windows of the surrounding buildings were also shattered by the shockwave. Having been bowled over by that same shockwave, I clambered to my feet and observed my surroundings.

“Look at this! Look at this sight, Megumin-san! Look at the face of that upstart with his eyes rolled into his head! What a blast! This truly is art! I’ll have a decade of inspiration from this! Yes, this is what true art is!”

I spotted the foreman and the upstart noble lying unconscious in the distance.

“Yes, this is art! This is what true art is, Sensei! Hahahahaha!”

— I’ve decided.

Clenching my fists, I walked towards the two who were laughing heartily while lying motionless on the ground-

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Volume 4 Digital Edition Short Story: The Undead Ruler of the Neighborhood Association

“...Someone brought the real deal here.”

It was currently close to dusk.

“What’s your problem!? Why are you always, always so stingy about me! All you ever do is make my life hard, penny-pincher Kazuma!”

Smack-center in the town’s graveyard, Aqua and I conversed with one another.

“U-, Uhm... Please you two, people should be arriving here soon, so...”

Wiz, who had been forcefully brought here by Aqua, tried to mediate the situation.

This all began yesterday afternoon.

Amongst the many requests from the guild, one of them was to be a staff member for the test of courage being held by the neighborhood association. Interested, Aqua took the request, but...

“Are you retarded!? It’s just a test of courage by the neighborhood association, so don’t bring real undead here! Also, there’s no point in a test of courage that doesn’t look scary whatsoever!”

“What!? Are you trying to say that Wiz isn’t scary!? Are you trying to say that the stray ghosts over there are scarier!? Apologize! Apologize for hurting a lich’s pride! And Wiz, say something with a scary expression if you please!”

“A-, Aqua-sama, uhm, I actually feel more hurt by what you said instead....”

But what should we do now?

I’m pretty sure the guild hired some adventurers to act as monsters, but at this rate the test of courage will be ruined by this idiot.

Perhaps noticing my worries—

“Uhm... It’ll be fine. Just leave this to me! Despite the way I am, my title of undead ruler isn’t just for show. I will be sure to give them a scare!”

Wiz, with a clenched fist, announced such.

The sun soon set, and the cemetery began to feel like a real cemetery. It was then— “Perfect! No matter how I look at it, this is a zombie alright!”

“...You really are talented when it comes to irregular work.”

Aqua nodded satisfied, drawing tools in hand.

“I-, Is it really that amazing? How does my face look like right now...? I said that I would give everybody a scare, but I’d rather not overdo it...”

Wiz, who had been given a Hollywood-level makeup by Aqua, said so with unease.

“Well, I guess your zombie-makeup is good enough to make an elderly person have a heart attack on sight.”

“I-, Is it really!?”

“Oh, they’re coming! First, Kazuma and I will start a conversation with the participants. Then, when they’re off guard, jump out and give them a scare! Wiz, hide!”

“Y-, Yes, I understand!”

After Wiz hid behind the grave, Aqua and I went with cheery smiles to greet the participants.

“—Huh? Kazuma also took the job?”

I thought they were just participants, but it turns out that they’re just some familiar adventurers.

Well that makes sense. It’d be pretty lonely if there was just one or two people doing this entire thing.

“Ahh, Aqua and I were gonna talk to the participants like this to drop their guard, and then...”

Just as I was explaining—

“B-, BAHHHHHHHH—!”

A voice that didn’t quite suit the dark cemetery sounded.

According to plan, Wiz jumped from behind the shadow of the grave.

“Ah, Wiz, this is a misunderstanding. These guys are here to—”

““““Owaaaah—!““““

Before I could finish explaining, the adventurers screamed in terror.

Ah-, wait....

“I-, It’s a zombie! It’s the real deal!”

“Damn, that sure gave me a scare, but we’re lucky that it showed up before the participants!”

“Ah shoot, I didn’t bring my weapons.”

The adventurers unanimously such things.

“...Huh?”

Unable to grasp the situation, Wiz kept her arms raised like a zombie.

Then, one of the adventurers pointed to Aqua.

“No, we don’t need our weapons. We have Aqua-san here, don’t we?”

““““Ah““““

“Wha-? W-, What-!? P-, Please wait...”

Ignoring Wiz—

““““Aqua-san, if you please.““““

“W-W-W-W-W-, Wait! I-I-, I’m not a zombie! Uhm, I’m not a zombie, so—”

“T-, That’s right! She’s not a zombie. It’s just some sort of special makeup...”

As Wiz and I hurriedly tried to resolve the misunderstanding, the adventurers tilted their heads in puzzlement.

“...Oi, this zombie is talking.”

"It even said that it's not a zombie... What's this? Some sort of rare subspecies?"

"I don't really get it. I really don't, but just in case..."

The adventurers nodded their heads.

"..... Since 'Turn Undead' won't hurt any living beings, Aqua-san, please go ahead and do it."....."

".....U-, Uhm... I'll hold back a bit, ok?"

—That night. The zombie that ran away with all its might through the cemetery caused the test of courage to be bustling and lively.

For some reason, Aqua got a special bonus.

Volume 4 Digital Edition Short Story:

Crimson eyed Rookie Killer

There's a monster known as the Rookie Killer.

Such creatures are covered in black fur, possess golden, cat like eyes, and have the long fang and claws that are the hallmarks of carnivores. They are fierce and cunning monsters and are said to be highly intelligent.

In front of the cage that held such a monster, Megumin grabbed the bars with both hands and softly said,

"So cool...."



There is a set of iron cages behind the guild that are used for holding monsters captured for research or trading purposes.

This place doesn't get many visitors owing to the risk involved in keeping live monsters in captivity, but for some reason, Megumin's eyes sparkled like a child in a zoo, and she refused to leave the cage that held the Rookie Killer.

"Hey, even if it's a so called herbivorous Rookie Killer, it's still a powerful monster. Come on, it's dangerous here, so let's go back."

Yes, this Rookie Killer is said to be the rare herbivorous type.

Apparently, the guild called in adventurers from far away in order to capture such a rare specimen after hearing rumours of its existence.

Rookie Killers normally have yellow eyes, but the eyes of this one are red, just like Megumin's. That particular combination of red and black seems to speak to her Crimson Demon sense of aesthetics, and she had stood in front of that cage for an entire hour.

"Do you not understand how cool it is, Kazuma? That sleek body, those huge fangs that look like they could end a creature in a single blow, and those bright red eyes shining from beneath his black fur... Just everything about it is so cool!"

"Well, yeah, large cats are cool and all, but some noble has already decided to buy this Rookie Killer. We can't afford the compensation if anything were to happen to him."

"Just a while longer, I'll go back after just a little while longer... This one seems to really like eating Kiri fruits. Yeah, I like eating them too."

Megumin said, gazing upon the Rookie Killer as it hungrily chowed down on the fruit in its cage. How many times has she said 'just a while longer', I wonder?

And just like that, she spent the entire day in front of the cage, only returning when it became too dark to see its form clearly.

— I have no idea what made her this obsessed with it, but she came to visit the Rookie Killer again the next day.

"Kazuma, I want to set the Rookie Killer and Chomusuke together."

"... I know they are both felines, but have you really thought this through? At

least consider the difference in size... Hey, stop! Don't shove Chomusuke through the bars! Do you want her to become a snack?"

After Megumin shoved Chomusuke through the bars, instead of running away, the cat casually walked up to the Rookie Killer and started sniffing it.

The Rookie Killer itself seemed to pay Chomusuke no heed, simply lying in its cage as Chomusuke approached.

"... Seems like it failed. Ah, and here I wanted them to create a cool child together..."

"Come on, you should respect their choice."

From that day forth, Megumin went to visit the Rookie Killer daily.

"I want to give him an awesome sounding name."

"Don't do that. Seriously, I'm begging you, don't."

"—I made an outfit to bring out Chomusuke's cuteness today. Do you think the Rookie Killer will like her better now?"

"What are you doing? I feel sorry for Chomusuke... Though I guess the cat quite likes it..."

And thus, the days went by. Then, one day-

"Kazuma, Kazuma, I think there's something wrong with that Rookie Killer as of late. How do I put it, It feels like it's weaker than usual."

"... Yeah, it does seem more lethargic. And the way it sleeps is a little odd."

The Rookie Killer lay in the middle of its cage, its eyes half open.

"His body has probably become weak after being locked up in that cage for so long."

After we relayed that to the guild staff, they tried many different things such as varying its diet and inviting priests to cast Heal on it, but it didn't seem to make much of a difference.

In her worry, Megumin tightly grasped the bars of the cage and pressed her face all the way up to it.

I told her that it's still dangerous even if it's herbivorous, but she completely ignored me. Until the day the noble arrived, Megumin spent all her time glued to that cage.

"— So this is the herbivorous Rookie Killer... What the-It's not dead, is it?!"

Such were the words the noble uttered upon seeing the Rookie Killer.

The Rookie Killer has only become weaker and weaker since then, and now it lay motionless in the middle of the cage.

According to Megumin, the only times it gets up from that spot nowadays is for meals. It's otherwise completely listless.

"It isn't dead. Can't you see its ears moving?"

Megumin, who was still glued to the cage, immediately retorted.

"Who are you? Are you the adventurer who caught this beast?"

"No, I'm only here to visit."

The nobleman waved dismissively at Megumin to shoo her away, before ordering his men to bring the cage outside.

Even as it's moved along the streets, the Rookie Killer still remained motionless. The nobleman prodded at it with his cane to check for signs of life.

Seeing the Rookie Killer remain completely still, the man let out a deep sigh.

"It might not make it back to my residence like this... Ah well, if it ends up dying, I suppose I'll just stuff it."

Those words put an indignant expression on Megumin's face.

"... How long do you intend on following us for? Anyway, we're leaving, so hurry up and make way."

The nobleman said as they struggled to lift the cage onto the carriage they had waiting outside the town's walls.

"... Hey, how long would it take for you people to load it onto the carriage? You know what, nevermind, we brought the specially made collar with us, yes? Just put it on its neck and take it out of the cage. If it's this weak, a collar and rope would be enough to control it. It'd be faster this way. I won't need to

spend money to buy the cage too.”

Hearing the nobleman’s words, his underlings gave each other a look, before doing as ordered.

“Right, the collar and rope are both attached now... Say, are you sure this thing is still alive? It’s not moving at all. Hey, just drag him out of the cage!”

Following his instructions, his men grabbed onto the rope and dragged the Rookie Killer out of the cage. Just then—

The Rookie Killer suddenly opened its eyes, and pounced upon the nobleman.

“Aaah! Th-This guy isn’t weak at all! Help me! Hey, Crimson Demon girl! You can use advanced magic, right? Hurry up and kill this thing!”

In response, Megumin brought out her staff and struck a pose.

We are adventurers, after all. No matter how much she likes that Rookie Killer, or how much she dislikes that nobleman, we can’t possibly turn a blind eye when someone is getting attacked by a monster.

In response, the Rookie Killer stared at Megumin and slowly backed away from the nobleman.

Without shifting it’s gaze from Megumin, it started slowly moving away from the town.

It must have instinctively known that she was the only person in this group that posed a threat to him.

“Hurry up! What are you waiting for, strike it down already!”

The newly freed nobleman screamed, and in response, Megumin said,

“My magic is quite special. If I unleash it at this range, it might hurt you...”

“Don’t worry about that, hurry up and blast it! That thing tried to kill me, so hurry up and slay it already!”

Now that she has gotten an excuse, Megumin smiled.

“Explosion— ! ”

The Explosion exploded some distance away from the Rookie Killer, merely

buffeting it with the shockwave and causing it no major damage. On the other hand, perhaps due to their close proximity to the Explosion, the nobleman and his underlings all fainted out of shock.

The Rookie Killer took a look at Megumin who collapsed after expending her mana-

“... It left... Yeah, Rookie Killers are cunning monsters with high intelligence. I almost forgot about that...”

“...”

“... Say, there’s a reason other than mana exhaustion that you aren’t raising your head, right?”

“Shut up! You are as tactless as usual, Kazuma! Forget it, hurry up and carry me home!”

— A few days later, I heard that the guards discovered a large pile of Kiri fruits mysteriously left outside the gates...

Volume 7 Digital Edition Short Story: The Devil and the Forbidden Book

This happened when I stayed outside until it was late and was making my way back home.

“... What’s going on?”

Even though it’s this late, for some reason, there’s a whole bunch of people lined up next to an alley.

And there were several familiar faces in the line.

My sense of curiosity getting the better of me, I walked up to them and asked, “Excuse me, what’s this line for?”

“F-Frequent customer. What are you doing here at such a time?”

Within the queue are the onee-sans who often entertain me at the store.

“A-A human! Why would a human appear at this time?”

“Oh no, we’ve been discovered! Will today’s sale be canceled?”

The people in the line started raising a fuss upon seeing me.

“N-No, it’s fine. This man is a frequent customer at our store. He already knows that we are succubi.”

Hearing the words of the onee-san, the people in the queue let out a sigh of relief.

In other words, none of the people in this queue are human.

“Well, you see, tonight, the store we are lined up in front of will release an extremely shocking gravure magazine.”

An extremely shocking gravure magazine?

“I’m really looking forward to it ever since it was announced! I’ve been looking forward to this day!”

“I-I’ve been praying to the evil gods every day since it was announced...”

I heard the two men right in front of the line say.

Now that I pay attention, almost every single devil in the line had an extremely excited expression on their faces.

Is it really that shocking?

“That’s the situation, so... frequent customer, could you do us a favour and keep what you’ve seen here a secret?”

Saying that, the onee-san gave me a deep bow.

“Of course I’ll keep it a secret. Actually, I’ll line up too.”

“Eh?”

All the devils present let out a shocked gasp.

“Is-Is that really okay? I don’t know if I should be the one to say this, but it’s a really shocking gravure magazine. If a young devil who hasn’t developed much resistance to such matters were to read it, it might even cost them a few of their lives.”

“I want to see it even more.”

“J-Just who is that human? Does he have a death wish?”

“Don’t you know? He’s a frequent customer at our store, and is on friendly terms with Vanir-sama.”

Such murmurs started spreading throughout the crowd. For some reason, some of them started looking at me with envious gazes.

At that time-

“Thank you for lining up at my shop this late, everyone! Please, enter!”

The one who announced that was Vanir.

Well, judging from where we were, I suspected that it might be the case...

The devils rushed to buy the book, and those that got their hands on a copy treated it like it was some kind of valuable treasure.

“Hey, hurry up and flip the page! I want to see what’s next!”

“I-I understand how you feel, but calm down! D-Don’t let it get to your head!
This page is way too stimulating...”

The male devils at the front of the line immediately engrossed themselves in the book the moment they got their hands on them, seemingly unable to contain themselves any longer.

“Kyaa!”

“Oh! That’s why I said that you’re still too young for this. You just lost a life there.”

Possibly because she got too excited after hearing the exclamations of the devils up front, but the loli succubus who was once caught by Aqua spurted out a spray of blood from her nose and collapsed.

Is it really that amazing?

Just when I had my hopes raised-

“Oh, my apologies, they are all sold out. The people still in line, please hold onto your tickets and await the next reprint.”

Vanir announced such disappointing news.

I pushed my way past the devils who were heading the other way with glum expressions and confronted Vanir.

“Hey, hold it right there! Raising my expectations so much just to pull this on me!? Isn’t that too much!?”

“Oh? Moi was wondering why I was feeling such delicious dark emotions. So it’s because of this perverted brat who falls head over heels for succubi. What are you doing here?”

“I’m very interested in that extremely shocking gravure magazine. Is there really not a single copy left?”

“You aren’t a devil, so why are you interested in it? Well, you are an important customer. I do have a book I’ve been keeping on hand in the event of any errors, but...”

Hearing our conversation, the succubi who I was with earlier started to raise a

din.

"How-How could this be? Frequent customer, you're way too sly! At least give me a look!"

"Me too! Give me a peek too!"

Well, it's not like I can't understand how they feel. With high expectations, I opened the book in front of the succubi...

A bed of roses was depicted on the first page, and in the middle of it was Vanir's mask.

Yes, only Vanir's mask.

"Aaah! V-V-Vanir-sama's nude form..."

"T-This is amazing! I can't believe that even the underside of Vanir-sama's mask is..."

Unlike the excited Succubi around me, I only made a puzzled expression. And Vanir cheerfully said,

"You really are a strange man. To desire my gravure magazine, do you perhaps hold romantic feelings towards me? Sadly, us devils have no gender, so Moi cannot answer your feelings... Oh, that's an intense swell of dark emotions! It's delicious indeed!"

Volume 8 Digital Edition Short Story: VS!

Under the gaze of several children, Megumin flipped her mantle and announced herself:

“My name is Megumin! The number one magician of Axel, and the one who controls explosion magic!”

Standing directly across from Megumin was...

“My name is Yunyun! The number one magician of the Crimson Magic clan... Kyaa-! Wait-, I’m still introducing myself! Stop, stop!!”

—Yunyun, who began to scream after getting preemptively attacked during her introduction.

In the early morning, at the park in the town of Axel—

Two Crimson Magic clansmen were rolling across the floor.

And I was looking directly at the two of them..

“...Um, for now, can we just say that it’s Megumin’s win?”

“I won’t accept that! The rule that you should wait until the opponent has finished introducing themselves... Ah, wait Megumin! I understand, I understand! It’s my loss it’s my loss! So stop pulling on my hair!!”

As Megumin continued to lunge at her, Yunyun admitted her defeat in tears.

—The way this all started, was when Yunyun – who had come to our mansion to sleepover – nonchalantly said something with no ill intentions whatsoever.

“It’s true that I have more losses, but that’s because Megumin was the one to decide the contents of every match. Also, Megumin and I have never really had a legitimate match right?”

I absentmindedly listened to Megumin and Yunyun talk about their past. They talked about a bunch of things...

Like who was the stronger of the two, and stuff like that...

“—While I did hand the title of ‘number one magician in the Crimson Magic

clan' to you, I'm just annoyed that you can announce that so pridefully!"

"That's not a valid reason to break the rules! Geez I understand already ok!? The first round is my loss ok!?"

Yunyun was pushed down and mounted by Megumin. No matter how I looked at it, I could not see any single trace of a mature argument.

"Since Megumin won the first round... The next match will be chosen by Yunyun right?"

As someone who had been slowly solicited into being an observer, I wanted this embarrassing competition to end as quickly as possible.

Due to the flashy introductions akin to the Crimson Magic clan, we've recently become the center of attention of the children in town.

Amongst the children, there were some that have began imitating the poses of these Crimson Magic clansmen.

Under the collective gaze of these children, tears could be faintly seen in Yunyun's eyes, and she had shamefully swept the dirt of her clothes, and picked up her purse that had fallen during her quarrel with Megumin.

"Then the next match will be... this board game!"

It was a game that I was familiar with; the chess-like game that Megumin was good at.

"My how unsightly. Yunyun, since you don't have any friends, you decided to spend the past year training in this game? I'm sure your skill in this game is comparable to a grandmaster already."

"You don't have voice your expectation on how I won't make any friends in the past year! Anyway, are you trying to refuse this challenge knowing that you'll lose? A true Crimson Magic clansman would take any challenge head-on right?"

"You little..."

Yunyun showed fearless smile towards Megumin, who growled and grit her teeth, and began to arrange the board pieces.

—Yunyun won, and so, the second round ended in a superbly plain fashion.

“With this the score is tied at one to one! Now then, what will our last match be? Will it be a magic showdown like true Crimson Magic clansmen? Ah, but if we’re doing that then let’s see who can defeat more monsters...”

Yunyun, who had beat Megumin in a convincing manner in the second round, seemed uncharacteristically excited. Though, it was probably because she rarely had any company.

Then, Megumin turned to face me.

“Why don’t we have our observer, Kazuma, choose the last match? I wouldn’t complain about his choice, well then, let’s finish this!”

“Kazuma-san will? Well, I’m fine with that...”

Even though they said that, I wanted to hurry up and go home already...

“Well since this is troublesome, let just settle this with rock-paper—”

“What do take the holy showdown between Crimson Magic clansmen for—!?”

“Please choose a little more seriously!”

Even though I had made the correct decision, I was berated by the two of them.

Geez these people... why don’t I just say that we’ll have a sexy showdown where whoever can successfully seduce me first wins?

As I was deciding whether I should say something that bordered on sexual harassment—

A group of two police officers whom appeared to be on patrol arrived at the park.

The children said something to the police officers, and the police officers quickly turned to look in our direction.

...I can’t but feel an ill premonition.

“Alright then, lets decide the topic of this match.”

The officers probably had an ill premonition as well, and never removed their

gazes from Megumin and Yunyun.

“What kind of match are we having? By the way, I was thinking that I wouldn’t mind staying in jail for today...”

“A-Actually, I wouldn’t mind having this match some other day, and...”

Noticing the two getting cold feet, the police officers quickly closed the distance and asked:

“You guys, can I have a moment? I got a report from the neighbors that said that the people who were teaching the children weird games were here...”

“The winner of the match will be whoever can stay here longer! I’m going home first so-!”

“I’ll take this challenge head on! Kuh-! As expected of Yunyun, to think that you would defeat me so easily-!”

“Hey, I didn’t say that I accepted this, so I haven’t won yet! So why is Megumin running away with such regret!? Ah-! Um-, Patrol-san please don’t misunderstand! I wasn’t doing anything bad so...-!”

—Yunyun won.

Consulting with this Masked Devil!

Today as a Harem Consultant

As Moi continued to operate as usual at the corner of the adventurer’s guild, Moi noticed a familiar man.

“Yo Vanir, I want you to tell my fortune.”

“Go away.”

The man’s name is Satou Kazuma.

As the devil whom sees through all, the only person whose thoughts Moi could not fathom were those of this man.

“Hey, I’m a customer you know? In business, the customer is god right? So treat me like one.”

“Since you asked Moi to treat you like a god, that means that you would like

to have a taste of Moi Vanir-style death ray, yes?”

Once Moi said that, the person from an alternate world cautiously retreated several steps from Moi.

“Though thy art a good business partner, the same cannot be said of your other aspects. Why is it that thy must come bother Moi every time you have a problem? The only ones that are capable of making Moi – who art a devil – feel so foul are limited to that goddess and you, brat.”

“Oi, don’t compare the benevolent Kazuma with that troublesome person. Hey I’m begging you, isn’t this already a fair deal? I mean, it’s not like I can’t pay up, so why am I the only one not allowed?”

“It is because you always come to Moi to discuss some idiotic things. The last time you came here, you wanted to consult on ‘Even though I live together with so many young girls, why is it that no one has ever snuck into my bed!? Why is it that there are no opportunities to peep on them changing!? Is this some kind of curse!?’ amongst other foolish topics.”

“I don’t really think that these topics are stupid...Hmm, I guess that it’s because this isn’t Japan, but an alternate world huh? The reason why nothing happens even though we live together, is simply because the common sense here is different from Japan. There’s no way around that hm... Well, let’s just leave this topic there for now.”

As the person from the alternate world continued to ramble on, he leaned his head towards Moi, and said with a soft voice:

“I want you to see how many pretty girls in this town have feelings for me.”

“Go away.”

The man from an alternate world had come – once again – to discuss some idiotic things. I flicked my hand and gestured for him to leave.

“Wait, what? Are you just trying to make my life hard!? Didn’t I already say that I would pay you!?”

“You’re goddamned annoying you little brat! You’re a brat that would use Moi powers to do something so unfathomably pointless! There’s not a single lady

out there that would like someone of the likes of you!"

"Are you kidding me!? How can there be not a single girl out there that likes me!? I am the hero that routed several demon king army generals, the savior of this town, the great adventurer Kazuma-san you know!? It wouldn't even be strange if someone asked me for my signature!"

"Moi told you already! A queer girl like that doesn't exist in this world! Now hurry up and leave, you're obstructing Moi from doing business!"

Even though Moi had told this man from an alternate world the truth, he refused to accept Moi answer, and sat down beside Moi.

Then, a young female customer – unrelated to this mess – arrived at Moi table.

"Um, I have something I'm bothered about that I came to consult on..."

"Hmpf, no matter what problem you have, Moi will do Moi best to solve it immediately. The fee for this consultation will be determined by how complicated your problem is. Are Moi terms agreeable?"

Hearing Moi inquiry, the customer sitting across the table nodded her head.

"Actually... Recently my chest has been aching a little... There's nothing during the day, but at night it feels like something is pressing down on my chest..."

"It's probably love huh~~"

"Stop messing around you little brat! Just go to the side over there and stay put!"

Moi dismissed the man from an alternate world – who nonchalantly chipped into the conversation – and used Moi power to see through everything about the customer.

"...Hmpf, thy mother-in-law that passed away last month is coming to thy home every night to trouble thy. When thy art fast asleep, she will jump around on thy chest..."

"That woman, she won't leave me alone even though she's dead!? Please teach me some way to repel evil spirits!"

Moi handed a slip of paper to the enraged customer.

"Thy should go to the address written on the memo and look for 'Wiz's Magic Tool store'. That store sells a type of holy water named 'Goddess' Juice'. If you sprinkle it around your home, the evil spirit will be purified, and will peacefully ascend to heaven."

"I got it! Here's some extra as thanks for your help, please take it! This time I'll settle it with that wench once and for all!"

The lady slammed the money onto the table, and hurriedly ran out of the adventurer's guild. True to her word, the value of the money was greater than the standard consultation fee.

The man from an alternate world that saw the situation unfold, opened his mouth and said:

"Oi, didn't you just easily solve that person's problem? So why won't you even try to solve mine? Is it because you'll only try hard when the customer is female?"

"So you're still here you annoying little brat. If you actually have something proper to discuss, then Moi shall properly assist you. So go and find some earnest problems, and come back to find Moi. If you don't have any then go away. Moi has to serve the next customer."

Yes, Moi consultation center was about to enter its prime-time.

As the person from an alternate world moved to the back of the line, behind several of Moi more respectable customers.

"Oi wait a second. Even I have some normal problems I want to discuss. I was just joking around earlier, so sorry about that. Anyway, I won't try to be cheap, so help me solve my problem alright?"

As he said that, the man from an alternate world showed an earnest expression.

Since this brat was always involved in some kind of trouble, could it be that he encountered some problem again?

Moi leaned forward, and asked seriously:

"...What trouble do you have?"

"It doesn't matter if they're a girl or a boy, the people around me are strange no matter what. So I'm kinda troubled by this."

"Go away."

As Moi gave Moi final judgment, the man from an alternate world's face seemed to change color.

"What why! Isn't this an actual earnest problem already!? You're just useless when the problem actually matters!"

"Since you're always asking Moi about useless things, why don't Moi cast a curse that makes mushrooms grow on your rear!? Maybe you will have a real problem then!"

The man from an alternate world's body trembled, and he swiftly backed away from Moi.

Once he felt that he was safe with the distance between us, he turned back and shouted:

"I-di-ot! I-di-ot! I said that I was surrounded by strange people, but the strangest person is actualy you! I'm gonna spread bad rumors about your consulting center till it closes, so know y—! Yo, I'm just joking, I'm just joking dude! Don't come any closer!"

With all Moi might, Moi chased after the man who ran away after spouting such dastardly lines.

That little brat is perhaps the strangest man in this town.

Volume 9 Toranora Digital Edition Short Story: The power of the Crimson Demons

Having found it bothersome to cook a meal, I went out to grab some lunch and am now currently wandering around the city of Axel after my meal.

— Just then, I came across someone I knew hiding behind a wall and peeking beyond it.

“Oh? Hey, isn’t that Yunyun? What are you doing out here?”

That person is Yunyun.

“What are you peeking at? Is there a pair of cats or neroids mating or something?”

“Of course not! Why would I want to look at such a thing? Just look! See for yourself!”

Following her instructions, I peeked out past the wall and saw Megumin in a black dress.

“Oh, I see, you’re just stalking Megumin like you usually do.”

“I don’t stalk Megumin! Just what kind of person do you think I am?”

Yunyun’s eyes started glowing, and in response, I placed a finger on my lips and made shushing motions.

“You’re too loud. She’ll notice. Still, what’s up with her? There aren’t any festivals or events going on, so why is she wearing something like that? I don’t know where she’s heading, but this seems interesting, so maybe I’ll join you for a bit.”

“I know, I’m curious about that too, that’s why I started following her... For some reason, hearing Kazuma-san say that make me feel really uncomfortable.”

Ignoring Yunyun who was mumbling some incomprehensible things, I crept after Megumin as she walked down the back alley.

Not long after, Megumin seems to have discovered something and came to a

stop.

“Oh, seems like a couple of neriods are mating over there.”

“Is watching neroids mate really so interesting? Why is Megumin looking so engrossed in it?”

“No, anyone’s interest would be caught by seeing neroids mate. Actually, what exactly are neroids anyway?”

“I want to know that too. How does everyone just casually make them into drinks? Just what are they?”

— Ten minutes later

“I never knew the mating ritual of neriods could be so moving...”

“Even Megumin was moved to tears...”

With her eyes red both from her heightened emotions and her tears, Yunyun said that as we continued following Megumin.

After leaving the back alley, Megumin headed to the theatre.

She seriously looked through the posters out front.

“Does she have a show she wants to watch?”

“Ah, I know, she’s probably looking to watch Abarenbo Gunsho or The return of Baron Putankim! Abarenbo Gunsho is a very interesting show, so we could...”

<TL note: Abarenbo Gunsho (Lit: Rogue monarch) is a parody of Abarenbou Shogun (Lit: Rogue General), a popular television program involving fictitious events in the life of Yoshimune, the eighth Tokugawa shogun.>

“Hey, you’re too loud, and your eyes are glowing! I understand getting passionate about a show you like, but please restrain yourself, we’ll get discovered!”

— Five minutes later

“Then the elder of the village said ‘If there isn’t any bread, then let us feast on the monsters.’ This is said to be the start of the tradition of eating monster meat, which had been declared taboo in the past. After overcoming this crisis, every town came up with their own local monster speciality...”

"Hey, Megumin's leaving. Abarenbo Gunsho is quite interesting, so maybe I'll come back later, but for now, let's go after her."

Probably getting her fill of the show, Megumin left the theatre, and we followed after her.

Then, Yunyun shyly said,

"Kazuma-san, are you interested in Abarenbo Gunsho too? What a coincidence, I-I'm interested in that work too. But can you enter the theatre by yourself? I'm already used to it, but going to the theatre alone is actually pretty difficult. Do you have someone to accompany you? I, err, it might not be my place to say this, but, err, if you don't mind..."

"Okay, fine, we'll go together. If you aren't comfortable with that, I can get Megumin to come with us too, so just stop saying such pitiful things!"

Just then, Megumin, for some strange reason, went into a police station.

Did she dress herself up just to turn herself in!?

Seeing that, both Yunyun and I barged into the station and said to the officer who was talking to Megumin:

"Sorry, I'm her guardian! We are really sorry for what happened!"

"Megumin you idiot, what did you do now!?"

–Ten minutes later

"Seriously, what is wrong with you two? Don't just automatically assume I committed some kind of crime just because I went into a police station!"

Maybe if you didn't act like that every day, we wouldn't automatically jump to that conclusion.

"I'm sorry, Megumin. But there's no way I could've expected that you were a poster model for the police..."

"Hey, just what do you mean by that? Why don't you make it clear?"

That's right, Megumin is dressed this way because she accepted a request to become a model.

"Still, to think that Megumin would become the face of the police. People

really have some strange tastes..."

"Hey, what do you mean by strange tastes? Why don't you make it clear?"

Having heard our conversation, the policeman said,

"Ah, she isn't posing for a police promotional poster, it's for an anti sexual harassment poster."

"Eh?"

We turned around and saw what appeared to be a draft of the poster.

Right in the centre of the poster is the face of a scary seeming girl with glowing red eyes, and below her are the words,

"Beware of dark roads and Crimson Demons."

In bright bold letters. The rest of the poster appears to be warning about the terrifying consequences of committing sexual harassment in this town-

Volume 11 Digital Edition Short Story: For Iris-sama's sake

Just how did this come to be?

"Then let's begin, Dustiness-dono. Even if you are my opponent... No, it is because you are my opponent that I will not hold back!"

"Agreed, Shinfornea-dono. Shinfornea of the sword. Dustiness of the shield. Together we are the two noble families that have protected this kingdom through the years. Let us decide which of us is superior here and now!"

We were currently at the capital's training grounds.

Iris bodyguards and educators, Claire and Darkness, were currently facing one another with swords in hand.

The person in question, Iris, merely looked on in excitement.

There's a reason for this, of course.

It all began back when we were all enjoying our afternoon tea.

After hearing about Iris' heroics, I had praised her with all my heart, but—

“—Iris was so incredible back then. No really, it was amazing! I think my little sister is the strongest in the world!”

“Onii-sama, you seem to only talk like that when it's about me, but you shouldn't forget that this nation is filled with talented people. In particular, Claire and Lalatina are my prided retainers.”

Claire and Darkness became bashful upon hearing Iris' praise.

I've heard about Claire's skill, but I'm more than familiar with the other's worthless tendencies.

Perhaps noticing my doubtful gaze, Darkness, whose gaze floated freely, initiated an unexpected conversation in an effort to shut me up.

“Even if you say that, I fear that I cannot win against Kazuma.”

Her hurried flattery was, in a sense, much like hush money.

“Now that you mention it, Kazuma-dono is certainly someone who would give me a hard time as well. That said, I would hesitate to call the way he fights as ‘combat’.”

Claire, who had once had her underwear stripped by me, agreed with a strained laugh.

“Onii-sama, you had a match with Lalatina as well?”

“Mhm, I did. Well, I’m the guy who defeated the hero of the demon sword, so it’s a given that they would lose to me, right? There’s nothing for them to be embarrassed about.”

That may have been a bit cocky of me, but Darkness and Claire remained silent.

“You really are full of mysteries, onii-sama. Your level is not particularly high and your stats are all so low, but for some reason you still manage to win in the end. I don’t know anyone quite as miraculous as you.”

“That’s right. That’s exactly right. Listen Iris, there are a lot of things in this world which cannot be measured by numbers alone. What’s truly important is this.” I said, as I thumped a fist against my chest.

“Pectorals!?”

“The heart.”

I immediately retorted Iris, who was a natural airhead every once in a while.

“Oh. By the way Onii-sama, who was trickier for you to handle, Lalatina or Claire?” Iris asked with keen interest.

For her to be curious about this sort of thing, she really was a militant princess.

“Hmm, if I had to choose, It’d probably be Darkness. All in all, she’s really tough and has a lot of stamina. Metaphorically speaking, she’s pretty much a barbarian.”

“Might I suggest a change of wording perhaps? Or would you prefer to

experience my ‘toughness’ firsthand?”

I ignored Darkness, who aggressively clenched her fists.

“As for Claire, she admitted defeat after I stripped her of her panties so I really can’t say much about her. Either way, haven’t the two of you already fought before?”

Darkness and Claire turned to glance at one another.

Seeing this, Iris explained.

“Lalatina lives in Axel, so there hasn’t been a chance for that... But that said, a little part of me does want to see how the two would fight one another.”

Upon hearing Iris’ wish, her two loyal retainers stood up from their seats—

“—KIEEEEEEHHH-!”

Claire screamed like a bird in heat or something and struck Darkness’ armor.

Judging from the scratch on her armor, Darkness seemed to gain a good idea of Claire’s offensive power. Darkness abandoned all defense and swung her greatsword with all her might in a wide arc.

Perhaps out of coincidence, the sword grazed the tip of Claire’s nose, and her face turned pale.

“Dustiness-dono, do you understand that this is not a deathmatch but a spar!?”

“And what about it? There’s no need to worry. After all, we have Aqua who can use ‘Resurrection’ in case something happens, so don’t hold back! Come at me like you wanted to kill me! Now, let us continue with all due haste! I look forward to a much sharper strike than that! Show me the true strength of the Household of Swords!”

“What has come over you Dustiness-dono!? What has become of your ever-present reason!?”

The two continued to battle feverishly even amidst their exchange of words.

“Onii-sama, in your eyes, who do you think is better?”

“You’re asking for my personal opinion? Given my familiarity with her, I would

probably favor Darkness. On second inspection though, Claire isn't looking too bad, but in certain ways, she doesn't quite measure up to Darkness."

Maybe she overheard our conversation, I saw a happy smile trickle onto Darkness' face.

"Sorry about this, Shinfornea-dono, but it seem like he has quite a bit of faith in me, so as regrettable as it is, it's time for me to stop playing around. Let's finish this."

Ignoring Claire's puzzlement, Darkness threw her sword aside, postured to take the fight seriously...

"You certainly seem to have a high opinion of Lalatina, Onii-sama. Is the difference between the two really that great?" Iris asked as I observed the climax of the desperate battle between the two.

"First off, Claire is way too slender, if you know what I mean. By my personal taste, I much prefer Darkness' figure. Second, long hair scores high points in my book. No... short hair isn't exactly bad either, you know? But in truth, Darkness has a better body and bigger chest, so it would only be fair for her to win out in the end."

"Onii-sama, what are you talking about!? I was talking about who you thought stronger, not who is more to your taste!"

Volume 11 Toranoana First-Print Edition Short Story: 'The Strongest Skill...'

The day we returned to the capital—

"So then, I said this. 'Before my explosion magic, a dragon is naught but a lizard...!' After that, Iris made eye contact with me as if to tell me that 'I will concede this prey to you'."

"Oh my!"

A banquet was held for us after we escorted Iris back to the castle.

The hot topic at the moment was of course Iris.

To hear about Iris, various nobles and people affiliated with the castle gathered to attend the banquet.

"In that moment, I thought to myself. 'Would it not be for the greater good were I to concede this grand accomplishment to Iris...?' While it is certain that my explosion magic can slay a dragon with ease, my explosion magic is simply far too powerful. If I were to strike it with my grand magic, there is no doubt that naught would be left of the dragon's valuable corpse."

The nobles gathered around Megumin, who fluently told the tale of her gallantry.

"The purpose of our journey was to obtain the wealth needed to fight against the demon king army. If my opponent were just a dragon, then I, a crimson magic clansman, can beat it without breaking a sweat. However, I ask of you all, would there be any meaning in doing that!? Having found my answer, I decided that I would only make my move if Iris were to miss her chance, so I prepared my magic and patiently looked on."

"How wonderful!"

"As one would expect of the wise Crimson Magic Clansmen. The wisdom to be able to consider so many factors in an instant is truly superb!"

Megumin has been spreading exaggerations for a while now. If I had to give it a number, I'd say that her stories were exaggerated nine times over.

In truth, Megumin had been really flustered when the dragon appeared, but...

"What happened next, Megumin-dono? How was the dragon defeated? Please continue!"

The nobles who each held a wine glass, who were perhaps excited due to their drunkenness, passionately prompted Megumin to continue.

Megumin, who bore a serious expression, nodded in response.

"Sacred

'Explode'. When Iris shouted that, the entire mountain was covered in light...! Then before I knew it, the dragon was dead." She bluntly explained.

“That’s our Iris-sama! Her talents stand out even amongst royalty!”

“Would it not be best for Iris-sama herself to personally embark to slay the demon king?”

“Before that, you would have to convince His Majesty. Surely you know how much he dotes on Iris?”

“However, is it not because our final trump card, Iris-sama, is present at the capital that we may send the greater half of our forces to the frontlines without worry...?”

“That aside, the power is as one would expect of the world’s strongest skill. The security of Belzerg is practically guaranteed!”

The attention of the listeners swiftly drifted from Megumin to Iris.

Megumin, who firmly believed that explosion was the strongest, showed a displeased expression when she heard the conversation. Suddenly, a moment of realization seemed to have overcome her visage.

“Sacred

· Explode’. Doesn’t this name remind you all of something else?” said Megumin with an expression full of confidence and triumph.

“What does it remind me of...? The name ‘Sacred

· Explode’ reminds me that it is a legendary sword skill that only the most talented of the royal family, armed with the holy sword, can use,” said one of the nobles as he nodded his head.

“No, wait.”

A different man cried out as if coming to some sort of realization.

“Sacred

· Explode’... Isn’t the name ‘Explode’ eerily similar to ‘Explosion’? Perhaps there is some relationship between them... Ah, probably not huh...”

Embarrassed by what he said, the man tried to pass it off as a joke.

“That’s it!”

Megumin snappily pointed to the man.

"You sir have some very keen insight. Yes, 'Sacred
· Explode' and 'Explosion' have pretty similar names, do they not? Do you all
understand what this means?"

"To be honest, I don't think there's any special meaning behind the similar
names."

"Shut up for a moment, Kazuma."

I was told off by Megumin the moment I butted into the conversation.

"Allow me to tell everyone this. The magic, 'Explosion', is humanity's
penultimate attack that was devised by a certain grand magician who devoted
his life to opposing the absolute beings that exceed human knowledge. If a
dragon will meet its end in one strike, then what of demons and gods? Even
such great existences will be damaged by this magic of unparalleled
destruction."

Hearing that, the audience gulped.

"'Explosion' and '
Explode'.

'Explode'. One is the ultimate magic, and the other the ultimate strike. At this
point, it would be strange for you all to fail to see the connection, especially
after I have said so much... Yes, the creator of the ultimate strike bore
reverence towards this ultimate magic and invented this skill through
reference!"

"I-, Is that so?"

"No, but the names are certainly quite similar..."

"Simply put, this skill is a rip-off of 'Explosion'. Then would it not be correct to
say that the dragon was merely defeated by a poor-man's 'Explosion'?"

"What the heck are you saying?"

"Shut up, Kazuma."

As I pulled a straight-man act towards Megumin's unbelievable statements,
the nobles began to discuss this newfound controversy.

Approaching Megumin—

“Oi, haven’t you thrown everyone into disorder with your statements? What’s are you going to do if the scholars start doing intensive research because of this?”

“Do you mean to complain about my conclusion of what the strongest skill is? To start with, the very fact that Explosion was even compared to other inferior skills is very irritating. I don’t think I’ve done anything wrong.”

This is quite defiant of her.

“Remember when we visited the castle a while back? You got full of yourself and called yourself a grand magician, but when people pestered you to show some advanced magic, all you could do was act all flustered. Who knows when that might happen again? Wait, you didn’t say anything crazy like that anywhere else did you?”

Megumin abruptly turned her eyes away.

“...N-, Nope, not at all.”

“Oi, don’t tell me... what the heck did you do this time? Was this in Axel? Or maybe the village? Oh I see, so it is the village, isn’t it!? Now that I think about it, you sent some pretty exaggerated letters a while back didn’t you!? So, what the heck did you tell them this time!?”

—It wasn’t until several days after we returned to Axel that I learned what Megumin had written.

Volume 11 Special Edition Short Story: Regarding the dangers of that skill.

“Kazuma-san, Kazuma-san. What about that fat guy over there? Try reading what he’s saying.”

After escorting Iris back, we stayed at the castle for several days.

These few days were filled with consecutive parties dedicated to Iris’ dragon

slaying feat and hospitality for us.

"You mean that noble old man over there? Alright, leave it to me."

During these parties, Aqua and I didn't have anything particular to do besides eat and drink, so we took to observing others.

It was then that I paid more attention to a certain skill of mine.

That being said, I could use my recently-learned lip-reading skill somehow to entertain myself.

"What's this...? 'We are out of mushroom sauce for my favorite lizard-dragon dish...? If there was that, the meal would have been perfect...'"

The old man gave the feeling that he was dreaming about the food.

"I see I see. Hey, isn't that skill really fun to use? I would learn it if I still could."

"You're not wrong, but let me tell you this. When people are giggling in your direction, you have to be extra extra careful. Even if the person you're using the skill on doesn't want you to hear their shit-talking, you'll be able to read it all in an instant. Some time ago, I used the skill on some female adventurers that were smiling towards me, thinking they were interested in me, and ended up taking some unexpected damage. That said though, I ended up confronting them about that. Heck, I persisted until they gave in and apologized. I even made them continue until I was satisfied."

By the way, I also made them tell me ten good things about myself before I let them off.

"You're as shady as ever aren't you? Well, what about those people over there? Do you see those oji-sans that are about as shady as you? I don't know what they're doing, but given how they're gathered near the wall and murmuring about stuff, I think they're up to no good. Call it a goddess' instinct if you like, but I think they're making some kind of evil plot!"

Aqua pointed towards a group of two nobles, whom appeared to be rather unwelcoming, discussing something off to one side of the room.

"Hmm... interesting. Alright, I'll give it a try!"

"Hey, I'm pretty sure they're up to 'that' sort of thing! You know, like stealing the castle maid's underwear!"

Listening to what Aqua said, I started reading the conversation.

"So, are the rumors true? That Elroad's prime minister was a pawn of the demon king army?" 'Mhm, there's no doubting it. Events will take a turn for worse if our secret dealings with the prime minister are discovered. If we don't hurry and destroy the evidence..."'

Having read the exchange, I quickly surveyed my surroundings.

It doesn't seem like anyone else saw or heard any of that. I should be in the clear.

"What are we going to do, I thought they were just playing a prank, but it seems that we've gotten ourselves into something bigger again."

"Hey, I didn't see or hear anything, but shouldn't we report whatever it is to Iris, Darkness, or some other big-wig? Once we're done with that we can clean our hands of it."

I nodded in agreement and accepted Aqua's suggestion without another word. Recently, her ability to detect danger has flourished.

That said, I might be better off sealing this skill for good.

At this rate, I might accidentally come across some national secret and get 'erased' as a result.

Having quickly realized the dangers of this skill, I pledged in my heart to never use this skill again—

"Hey, look look, over there. Someone is hitting on Darkness over there."

"What?"

Aqua pointed towards the V.I.P. seats, where a well-dressed Darkness was being passionately hit-on by a noble youth.

Irritated for no particular reason, I activated the lip-reading skill which I had sworn not to use again mere moments ago.

"Kazuma, knowing you, you'll read what they're saying, right? Tell me about

it, ok?"

Aqua, who was brimming with curiosity grabbed onto my shoulders and shook me around.

"Alright, listen in. Here's what that guy is saying. 'It sure has been a while, Lalatina-sama. Ooh what is this! Since we last met, you have become magnificently beautiful! Your looks lead me astray! You are... yes, you are as beguiling as a death ambrosia blossoming deep in the mountains...' Sorry, I can't do this anymore, it's too embarrassing. That said, I don't know what a death ambrosia is, but is that really a compliment?"

"That guy said that in a serious manner? Hey, then what about Darkness? What did she say?"

"What are you saying, Count Befrantz? I heard that you had taken personally to the battlefield the other day and that you have worked up your courage for the moment. You are... yes, you are as courageous greater king goblin...."

"Kazuma-san Kazuma-san. This is a personal request from me, but hearing you talking like a girl creeps me out, so you can stop now, alright?"

This is embarrassing for me, so could you not shut me down so calmly?

"Anyway, I understand the general gist of how lip reading works. Hey Kazuma, I'm going to try to read what they're saying, so give me the correct answer once I'm done okay?" Aqua loudly announced.

The surrounding people turned to look at Aqua.

As they all knew that Aqua was an excellent performer, they looked towards her with brimming expectations.

Well, lip-reading is sort-of like a performance skill, so she might be unexpectedly good at it. I then started reading what Darkness and the youth were saying.

'By the way, Dustiness-sama, would you mind if we discuss a potential engagement?'

"By the may, Dustiness-sama, would you mind if we discuss a potential engorgement?"

Almost, but not quite.

Hearing ‘Dustiness-sama’ mentioned, the surrounding onlookers seemed to understand what Aqua was doing.

‘Count Befrantz, House Dustiness shall politely decline your proposal...’

“See-through Pantsu-loving Dustiness shall wifely...”

“Alright, people are looking so stop! Don’t start weird rumors about Darkness again!”

The day after. It turns out that my hurried efforts to stop her were for naught. Darkness’ home had received a colorful variety of odd presents at once, and a troubled Darkness, who was suddenly the receiving end of a mysterious case of sexual harassment, soon came to consult with me—

Volume 11 Gamers Edition Short Story: On a certain Midsummer's night



On an extremely hot and stuffy night.

"Just then, just when I thought I finally got away, I felt something land on top

of my head. I looked up..."

The adventurers who couldn't possibly sleep in this heat were huddled together at the back of the tavern in the guild.

"And saw a large swarm of cellar spiders crawling on the ceiling above me!"

"WAAAAAH!"

We specifically asked the guild workers to darken the interior of the tavern, and started trading horror stories in that dim and gloomy place.

If it was me alone, even on a hot and stuffy night like this, I would be able to make it through using Freeze.

But most of these adventurers have no such recourse and have been troubled by the heat the past several nights.

Partly out of compassion for them, and partly to pass the time, I called this bunch to gather here and cool off with some horror stories.

However...

"U-Umm, this is quite scary and all, but it feels somewhat different from what I had in mind..."

The adventurer was sharing their experiences in a dungeon, but, well, how should I put it, it's more physically disgusting than scary.

"What are you saying, Kazuma? Those are cellar spiders, you know? The little ones that scuttle everywhere and will drop onto your body if you let your guard down for even a moment! There're very few other things that are scarier..."

"Please stop, Aqua-chan! It's reminding me of the last time I went into a dungeon..."

A certain female adventurer screamed upon hearing Aqua's elaboration.

"Then let me tell you a special horror story of mine. This happened on my tenth birthday..."

Megumin's red eyes were clearly visible in the dimness of the tavern.

The adventurers gulped in response.

"My family is very poor, so we often have troubles getting food. So, on the day of my tenth birthday, well, I didn't really expect too much for my celebration, but... my sister gave me a birthday present."

Isn't that a good thing?

It doesn't seem like I'm the only one who thinks so, and the tense atmosphere surrounding us abated somewhat.

Megumin gazed at us and continued.

"So, the present... She must have spent quite a bit of effort to gather them up for me. Her face was caked with mud when she happily walked up to me and said 'Onee-chan, I caught a lot of big and black ones!' before giving me a wriggling bag-"

"WAAAAAH!"

The adventurers once again broke out into screams.

No, this isn't right at all.

"Stop that, this isn't the kind of story I wanted to hear! These aren't horror stories at all!"

After hearing my words, Darkness started blushing for some inexplicable reason.

"Th-Then... let me go next... I have a story where a mysterious girl's scream could be heard coming from the basement of a certain noble's mansion every night..."

"Yeah, and then upon investigation, it turns out to be that noble having a tryst with a female servant every night, right? ... Hey, don't just go silent on me. We are asking for horror stories here, not erotic ones."

After I said that to Darkness, another adventurer said,

"Then, how about you share a story, Kazuma? You must have some great ones, right?"

Sure thing. I loudly cleared my throat and started sharing a famous Japanese horror story-

“– I see, anyone who sees a picture of that woman will die within a week. So it’s like Premonition of Death? But with Aqua-chan around, wouldn’t that problem be easily resolved? Compared to that woman, that terrifyingly skilled Dullahan is far scarier.”

“Also, about that Sadako ghost, how would you communicate with her if you don’t have that ‘telephone’ magic item that Kazuma mentioned? Doesn’t she only appear if someone is already using that item? Suddenly appearing from behind like that, is she using the Lurk skill to sneak up on them? Wouldn’t that just make her a burglar who only targets folks who are rich enough to afford that item?”

... Dammit, this is why I hate this world.

It’s just a horror story, why are you guys nitpicking it so much?

Is there really no way to make these guys feel true horror?

Aqua seemed to have been able to read the mood for once, and gave me a thumbs up as if to say ‘leave it to me.’

“Then let me tell a story next. This will definitely be very scary for men.”

All the adventurers seemed to relax upon hearing Aqua’s declaration. They’re probably thinking ‘Ah, it’s just one of Aqua’s stories, how scary could it be?’ or something along those lines.

“In a city somewhere, there’s a man who lives by himself. That man is troubled by door-to-door salesmen continuously pestering him, and eventually thought of a great idea to deter them.”

The idea that the man thought of was to place a sign in front of his door.

After doing that, the various door-to-door salesmen stopped pestering him, and he was able to live a peaceful life.

“However, one day, the man heard a knock on his door, and wondered if he was hearing things. That’s because this is what is written on the sign he placed.”

Growing curious in response to Aqua’s words, we unconsciously let out a gulp.

“Written on the sign is ‘The resident of this house is a hardcore homosexual. If you are prepared for what comes after, feel free to knock on the door.’ The

man peeked out beyond the door, and standing there was... an obviously excited man, an aroused smile on his face as he placed a hand on the door—”

“WAAAAAAAAAAH!”

The male adventurers interrupted Aqua with a scream.

— Stop! This is scary, sure, but these aren’t horror stories!

Volume 12 Digital Edition Short Story: The unbelievably lucky silver haired thief

“Aah, I lost again! Hey, Chris, how are you so good at cards? Kazuma’s only good point is being lucky, but I think you’re even luckier than him.”

In the adventurer’s guild, Aqua, who has been playing cards with Chris, grumbled.

The game they are playing is similar to poker, and Aqua has lost every single game.

“Isn’t that obvious? It’s because Big Boss is-”

“A-Assistant-kun?”

Chris frantically sputtered upon hearing my words.

“-A Thief of the Eris Church.”

“Ah, yeah. Eris is the goddess of fortune, and it’s only natural for a thief to have high luck. Yeah, I get it now.”

Seeing Aqua nod repeatedly, Chris let out a sigh of relief.

Then, Aqua tilted her head to the side and,

“Say, between Chris and Kazuma, just who has the higher luck?”

Asked a question that threatened my very reason for existing.

Chris and I looked at each other...

“Of course, that’ll be me. Remember when I was manning Aqua-san’s store during the Eris thanksgiving festival? None of the customers received a winning lot. It’d be pretty difficult for Kazuma to do the same thing.”

And she confidently boasted.

It doesn’t seem like she has any intention of backing down on this matter. Well, she is the goddess of fortune, after all. However...

"Wait, what are you saying? That did happen, but didn't I successfully steal your panties? The success rate of Steal is highly dependent on Luck. That means that my luck is higher."

"No, hold on, that doesn't count! Resisting Steal requires high magic resistance! I'm a Thief! Of course I wouldn't have any magic resistance!"

Chris refuted, but I'm a man who places quite a bit of pride in the strength of his luck.

I pulled out my adventurer card and showed it to Chris.

"This is my current luck stat, and it's still growing as I level. I'm sure you know what this means."

My luck has risen by quite a bit since I've arrived in this world. That extraordinarily high value shone brightly on my adventurer's card.

"As expected of Kazuma whose only high stat is luck. I really wish I could get even one percent of that."

"Hey, what do you mean by that? My intelligence is pretty high too."

Aqua ignored my retort and turned to face Chris.

"So, what about yours?"

Flustered by Aqua's attentions, Chris averted her gaze, seemingly considering if she should take out her card or not...

"Come on, let me see!"

Aqua snatched Chris's card out of her pocket...

"Seriously? Is the value on her luck stat bugged? I should take this up with a guild worker."

"N-No, it's fine! It's not like it's causing me any problems..."

Chris's luck stat is so high that Aqua thinks that the display is bugged. As expected of the goddess of fortune.

I feel like this clearly determined who's the victor in this match, but Aqua said, "But this is a problem. There's no way to tell who has the higher luck like

this."

No, we already clearly determined who has the higher luck.

Just when I was about ready to admit defeat, an adventurer sitting at the next table over said,

"Why don't you guys decide this through a game of Rock-paper-scissors?"

Rock-paper-scissors. It's a game that relies heavily on luck and, to a small extent, intelligence.

I see, if that's case, there might be a chance for me to win.

"Rock-paper-scissors? Well, I'm fine with it, but can Assistant-kun really best me in luck? You haven't forgotten who I am, have you?"

"Do you really think I relied solely on my luck to defeat all those Demon King's Generals? There's no way I would accept such a challenge without something up my sleeve."

I clenched my fist and looked at Chris with a serious expression.

"Oh? You sure talk a big game. Come to think of it, didn't you lose to me in a contest of Steal back then? Do you intend to use this chance to take your revenge?"

Hearing Chris's words, the surrounding adventurers became excited, and Aqua too was looking at us with expectant eyes.

"Very well, let's decide this once and for all! As adventurers, we should act like adventurers and give this our all. Rock, paper-!"

"Eh? Wait, now? Eh, hold on, er— paper!"

Crap, the first round is my loss.

"Wait, assistant-kun, why are you stripping!? There's no need to strip! I've already won!"

"What are you saying? Aren't we adventurers that put our lives on the line? We can't possibly play the same kind of games that children do, can we? Are you saying I've already lost?"

Hearing my challenge, Chris gritted her teeth.

“Okay, very well, I accept. After all, there’s no way I can lose!”

“That’s what I’m talking about! Everyone, show me some support!”

“I’m rooting for you! Blessing!”

“May the Blessings of Aqua be upon you! Blessing!”

“Hey, call some more priests over! Aqua-san, please...”

“If Kazuma loses, let me go next! I’m a thief too! I’m pretty confident in my luck!”

“Hey, no fair! Other people shouldn’t be allowed to support you like this! Assistant-kun, wait!”

Chris whined after seeing the surrounding adventurers pile buff after buff on me.

— In the end, all the adventurers present, including me, ended up getting stripped bare...

Volume 13 Digital Edition Short Story: A real magic item!

On a certain afternoon.

I was free and stopped by the adventurer's guild in search of something to do, and for some reason, a crowd has gathered there.

"...? Hey, what's all this fuss about?"

"Oh, isn't that Kazuma? It's magic items. A magic item peddler has arrived."

A familiar adventurer told me, and I reacted instantly upon hearing the term "Magic item."

"There's got to be some kind of downside, right? Like it'll explode upon use or it'll affect all targets indiscriminately or something."

"These aren't the items that Wiz-san sells, so you don't have to worry about that. You're loaded, so why don't you take a look? Your companions are already out there picking stuff out."

Turning over at his words, I saw my companions were indeed over there, picking up items as they wished.

"Oh, Kazuma, you came to the right place. Look at this item! It's a potion that can increase my magic power for a short time! There are no downsides! I would like to borrow some money!"

"Kazuma-san, Kazuma-san, this is a cleaning tool that will spin around once supplied with mana. I would really like you to buy it. It'd be much easier to clean the toilets with this. Oh, and it seems like there are no downsides."

I don't know why they are emphasizing the fact that it has no downsides, but it seems like these things are at least usable.

That said, increasing Megumin's magic power any further would only cause more problems, and Aqua will probably break it soon enough if I buy it for her.

And, standing next to them, Darkness was looking at something in her hand

with a troubled expression.

“A bandana that can increase dexterity, huh... Should I buy it? No, wait, in that case, my attacks will hit. But, on the other hand, we’ve been going up against a lot of strong enemies recently...”

“Right, buy it. Buy it right now. Actually, I’ll pay for it, so put it on right now.”

After finding an item that’s perfect for Darkness, I immediately made to purchase it.

“Wha-Kazuma! No, wait, this has, you know, downsides...”

“It doesn’t have any! Just give it to me, I’ll pay for it!

“Ah!”

After taking the bandanna off Darkness’s hands, I looked over the goods on display to see if there’s anything else worth buying.

They said it was a peddler, so I was expecting some useless garbage, but I managed to get my hands on a very convenient item.

It’d be perfect if there’s a staff that allows you to use other kinds of spells, or an item that increases intelligence.

“That’s unfair, Kazuma! Please buy my item too! Or at least lend me some money!”

“I don’t want to return this, so please buy it for me! This magic item will definitely be fun! If I put some water on it and make it spin, it’ll definitely spray water everywhere. If I use it well, it can be used as part of a party trick to create rainbows!”

“Shut up! You don’t need that stuff! Even if I bought that potion for you, Megumin, you’ll just drink it immediately without waiting for a boss to appear! And that thing isn’t a toy, Aqua!”

Pushing aside the two of them who were clinging onto me, my eyes fell upon something interesting.

“What’s this? Paralyze stone?”

“Oh, you have a good eye, dear customer. That’s an exceptional item that has

a certain chance of paralyzing a target it hits. That said, there is a downside..."

The old man peddler explained as I looked over the stone in my hand.

"In addition to the chance of paralyzation being low, it's quite rare, so there's only one for sale. On top of that, it's pretty expensive, and it's not a suitable item to trust your life to in the heat of battle... After all, if the paralyzation fails to work, the enemy can pick it up, and it'd now be a threat to you. It's an item that anyone can use, so now you'd be the one at risk of being paralyzed."

... Indeed, there's no point in handing your opponent a convenient item.

If there's no guarantee that the effect will go off, it'd be like handing over a weapon to your opponent...

Just then, I realized something.

"Old man, I'll buy this stone."

"Huh? Are you sure, dear customer? I mean, as a storeowner, it'd be a great help if you'd take it off my hands, but..."

After handing over the money to the old man, I turned towards Megumin with the stone in hand.

"Hey, Megumin, you want to try taking on my new technique?"

"Oh? Well, as long as it wouldn't harm me, I don't mind."

As expected of the Crimson Demons. They understand the appeal of a new technique.

I threw the paralyze stone towards Megumin as she nodded.

The moment the stone made contact, I used a skill I had prepared in advance.

"Steal!"

"Ouch!"

As I intended, in my hand was...

"Hey."

"That's not it, hear me out."

With Megumin's underwear in my hand, I immediately started with a denial.

“My new technique is meant to allow me to retrieve the paralyze stone after it hits an opponent. It’s a technique that allows me to throw an infinite number of paralyze stones. My Steal has a weird trait of targeting more expensive items. In other words, it’s your fault for wearing expensive panties!”

“I don’t wear expensive panties! Actually, I can’t move!”

Just then, I noticed something odd with the surrounding atmosphere.

“Y-You came up with an amazing technique of paralyzing someone and stealing their panties...”

“You devil... No, comparing you to them is an insult to devils...”

Oh, crap, I think I just raised another Scumzuma flag.

“Say, Kazuma... How much do I have to pay to experience that new technique of yours?”

Darkness looked at the paralyze stone in my hand with an envious expression.

“I won’t use it on you no matter how much you pay! Old man, I want a refund! Hey, Aqua, don’t pretend like you don’t know me, help me persuade him for a refund!”

Today, my reputation once again took another great hit.

—Afterwards, I gave Darkness the bandanna that increases your dexterity, but of course, she still couldn’t hit anything.

Volume 13 Digital Edition Short Story: The winter moon is...

The two Crimson Demons warily gazed around the clearing on the outskirts of town before whispering to each other.

"You're here, Megumin. Did you have any problems? You weren't seen by the others, were you?"

"Don't worry, I confirmed that no one was following me before coming here, and I also asked what everyone back at home was planning on doing today. Kazuma said that he didn't want to be woken up before evening, Aqua was heading out to the river to gather interesting looking pebbles, and even the recently free Darkness has gone out to oversee the engineering crew in filling in the nearby craters that the Explosion Devil created last night."

It's really handy to have the Lip Reading skill at such times.

Regardless of the distance, as long as I can see their mouths, I can follow their conversation.

"Make sure you properly apologize to Darkness-san after this, okay?"

"Forget after this, ever since last night, I've been lectured by her all the way until this morning. I vehemently denied it and demanded that she show me proof, but it seems like that just made things worse."

"I don't know why you would deny it to such a degree, but nevermind. Let's just hurry up and get it done while nobody's here."

Saying that, Yunyun started piling up the bricks in the clearing into what appeared to be a simple stove.

Megumin then placed the pot she carried with her on top of the stove, and brought out something from it.

"This color and fragrance... I can't believe you managed to get your hands on this..."

Yunyun showed a very intoxicated expression after taking a whiff from the bottle.

"This is a pretty top grade item if I say so myself. Heheh, this will definitely become the best ritual ever!"

Seemingly satisfied, the two nodded at each other before throwing the items they brought with them into the pot and lighting a fire underneath it.

"Hehehehehe... Right, now, all that's left is the secret technique passed down amongst the Crimson Demons..."

Sneaking up on Megumin as she mumbled about some strange things while stirring the pot, I asked,

"What secret technique?"

"AHHHHH!"

The two of them screamed in surprise after hearing my voice and hastily turned around.

"K-K-K-Kazuma, don't scare me like that! No, wait, that's not it, what are you doing here!?"

"This is bad, Megumin! Someone else saw the contents of the pot!"

I don't know what kind of suspicious ritual they were performing, but the two of them flew into a panic after seeing me.

"Damn... Now that you've seen it, we have no choice. You should gather your resolve, Yunyun."

"H-How did this..."

"Hey, hold on a minute, you two aren't thinking about doing something dangerous, are you!? If it's some kind of top secret ritual passed down through the Crimson Demons, I can pretend I didn't see it, so let's calm down and talk things through!"

Looking at me slowly retreat, the two of them looked at each other and nodded.

"... Right, why don't you lend us a hand, Kazuma? We'll give you a portion of

the secret Crimson Demon rabbit hot pot if you do.”

“Yeah, it’s a secret, but it can’t be helped if you saw it. Kazuma-san, can you help us stir the pot?”

.....

“Wait, rabbit hot pot? You snuck out here and did all those cloak and dagger stuff just to make a hot pot? Weren’t you doing something like calling down an evil god or something?”

“What are you talking about, Kazuma? We don’t need stuff like evil gods and the like. We’re planning on going moonwatching after this. This is the best day of the year for that.”

... Moonwatching?

“Should you really be doing such things in autumn? It’s freezing.”

“Kazuma-san, the colder it is, the clearer the air will be, and thus the moon will appear to be more beautiful.”

I see. Yeah, I have heard that you can see more stars during winter.

However...

“I’m surprised. To think that the Crimson Demons that are the furthest away from any sense of aesthetics and elegance would have a tradition of moonwatching...”

“Hey, hold on a minute, just what do you think Crimson Demons are, Kazuma?”

“There are artists amongst the Crimson Demons too! And we also do stuff like picnics and hikes, you know!?”

Ignoring the two of them, I started stirring the stuff in the pot.

“Anyway, why rabbit hot pot?”

“We aren’t really sure about that either. It seems like a famous Crimson Demon once said that talking about the moon brings rabbits to mind, or something along those lines.”

Guess it’s the same old story. This world really does have a lot of warped

Japanese legends.

— The sun has started to set beyond the horizon, and the beautiful moon is slowly rising to the heavens.

“Well, I think we can start moonwatching now. Are the two of you ready?”

“Yeah. I’ve put in a lot of practice in preparation for this day.”

“It’s really cold, so I would like to hurry up and finish my hot pot and head home... And what do you mean by practice?”

Yunyun seemed to have said something strange while I was distracted by the delicious smell wafting from the hot pot.

“Right, we’re starting. Yunyun, make sure you go along with me.”

Just as Megumin said that, the two Crimson Demons started howling at the moon.

“What are you two doing!? I don’t get it at all! Are you two trying to become one with nature!? Do the Crimson Demons have werewolf blood in them as well?!”

“Moonwatching obviously involves howling. Come on, Kazuma, join us!”

“It might be embarrassing at first, but it’s really fun once you get used to it. It’s just like working together with companions...”

No, this isn’t the moonwatching I wanted to experience!

“Look, Kazuma, isn’t the moon beautiful...”

“Yeah, that’s a very famous line in my country, but with Yunyun howling at my side, I can’t feel a single shred of romance in this situation at all!”

The beautiful moon shone brightly in the sky on this cold winter night.

The Crimson Demon moonwatching ceremony continued until a couple of patrolling policemen came around to admonish them-

<TL note: The phrase “Tsuki ga Kirei desu ne” (“Isn’t the moon beautiful?”) is a famous Japanese way to say “I love you”. The phrase was translated by Meiji-era novelist and teacher Natsume Souseki since he believed that two people in

love do not need direct words to convey their feelings>

Volume 14 Digital Edition Short Story: The Innocent Laugh of a Seedling

"You know, I've had this on my mind for some time now, but maybe monsters aren't born ferocious. They simply have no choice but to become ferocious to survive in this harsh world."

Yunyun mused in front of the potted plant at Megumin's house.

Yes, the very same pot that the Tranquility Girl is planted in.

"Yeah... We're taught that monsters are enemies of humanity that must be eradicated, but looking at her, it's really hard to believe that..."

Megumin let out a gentle smile as the Tranquility Girl happily laughed while waving at the sun.

Just then, Aqua, who was watering the girl, said,

"Well said, you two. Just look at that innocent smile. My all seeing eyes do declare that she's definitely a pure girl."

"... Hearing your assurances just makes her seem more suspicious."

As Aqua and I were talking, the potted plant reached out towards Yunyun.

As her hand wrapped around Yunyun's outstretched finger, the seedling broke out into a laugh.

"Aqua-san, I've decided. I'll take care of this girl. No, I'll adopt this girl as my own. She'll become the next chief after me."

"Are you even listening to yourself? I'm making fertilizer for her out of today's leftovers, so lend me a hand."

"Me too! I'll go make some more clean water!"

Saying that, the three of them left the scene, leaving me and the seedling alone.

I moved to pat the head of the doll-sized girl with my finger.

“... To think I’d end up taking care of a Tranquility Girl... We’ll be planting you in the depths of the forests near the village, so take care. You won’t be able to get nourishment from humans, but I’m sure you’ll manage somehow...”

“Like heck I will.”

... ...

“What did you just say?”

I definitely heard that.

Narrowing my eyes, I questioned the seedling.

But the seedling simply laughed as if nothing happened.

“... You said something really bad just now, right? Hey, say something.”

“Tsk.”

... ...

“Hey, Kazuma, I heard this from the villagers. Apparently the northeastern part of the forest sees the least human activity, so... W-What are you doing!?”

“Let go, Darkness! I’m going uproot this thing and burn it!”

“What are you saying!? Aqua will cry!”

Due to Darkness appearing at the worst possible moment, I couldn’t go through with my plans of taking care of things on the spot.

“Listen to me, Darkness. This girl really is evil from the moment it’s sown. She said some really dangerous words and even knows how to click her tongue.”

“... Kazuma, I know you’re still guarded against the Tranquility Girl, but think about it. It has barely been two weeks since this girl sprouted. Even a human baby wouldn’t be able to speak yet, and in any case it’s way too early for her to be learning words.”

“But I heard it! It definitely said ‘Like heck I will.’ and clicked her tongue on top of that!”

“What’s all this fuss about? What’s that about clicking your tongue?”

“I wonder what we should name her... Her skin is white, so how about... Shiro-

chan?”

Just then, Megumin and Yunyun came back carrying a plate of crushed vegetable scraps.

“Hey, Megumin, listen to this! That seedling spoke and even clicked her tongue!”

In response, the three of them gave me a worried look.

“Um... Kazuma-san, from a biological standpoint, a creature this small wouldn’t have developed the proper brain structure to memorize words...”

“What are you saying in a world where vegetables jump and fly around? Hey, why don’t you say something again!?”

Their gazes turned sour as I addressed the seedling once more.

“She’s a girl who’s received pure holy water, you know? Seriously, Kazuma-san, what are you doing? No matter how cute she is, pulling this sort of prank is a little...”

“Don’t get the wrong idea! This girl spoke and clicked her tongue! Why won’t any of you believe me!?”

Aqua gently placed her hand upon my shoulder.

“Kazuma... You must be tired from waking up early after getting used to sleeping in. It’s fine, just take a rest until evening.”

“Don’t you give me that look too! Dammit, it’s all because of you that everyone is treating me like I’m crazy!”

As I started lecturing the seedling, I could feel everyone else inching away from me and quietly whispering amongst themselves.

Occasionally, I would hear words like hospital and strange behavior and the like. Certainly nothing that would inspire confidence.

... Fine, don’t blame me if anything bad happens.

Just then.

“What is going on, Nii-chan?”

Just as I was about to give up, Komekko curiously wandered over.

“Oh, Komekko... No, it’s just, this seedling has a bad attitude, but no one believes me.”

I was a little worried that Komekko would end up giving me the same look that Megumin and the others are, but she simply drew closer to the seedling.

“... Looks tasty.”

“Eep!”

... Even in a different world, children are just as cruel as ever.

Volume 14 Gamers Edition Short Story: The Strongest Devil Summoner of the Crimson Demons

After coming to the Crimson Demon Village, I’ve had nothing but time on my hands.

There really isn’t much to do in a small village out in the countryside.

Aqua and Darkness ran off somewhere, and Megumin left Komekko in my care before busying herself with housework.

And thus, Komekko and I ended up playing in the backyard.

“—Right then, come play with onii-chan.”

“I got it. Nee-chan told me to play with nii-chan too.”

That girl... she better remember this.

... Oh, I thought of something. This will be extremely effective on a siscon like her.

I took out the snacks that I brought along as a gift.

“Hey, Komekko, between me and Megumin, who do you like the most? I’ll

give you this snack if you-“

“I like nii-chan more than nee-chan.”

Seeing Komekko snatch away the snack without a second thought, I briefly wondered if this is really okay.

“A-Ah, nevermind. Repeat what you just told me to Megumin when she comes back later, and I’ll give you another snack.”

“Okay!”

Good girl.

While hiding a snicker, I squatted down to Komekko’s height.

“Now, then, what shall we play? House? Tag?”

“Devil summoning.”

... Is this why they’re called Crimson Demons?

“Yeah, let’s leave that till you’re older, okay? Komekko is a Crimson Demon, so it’d be a real headache if you actually end up calling a real devil.”

“Okay. I got scolded by a small goblin when I summoned him without an offering.”

“Megumin! Megumin! Come over here, quick!”

I yelled out in the direction of the house.

“—Seriously, what’s the matter? I told you to keep Komekko company while I was handling housework, didn’t I?”

Megumin ran over while wiping her hands on her apron.

“Now’s not the time to be doing that. Your sister did something really amazing. Hey, Komekko, tell Megumin what you just told me.”

“I like nii-chan more than nee-chan.”

“What are you saying!? Komekko, I’ll apologize if I did anything bad! It really hurts, so please cut it out!”

No, not that line.

“I properly said it, so give me another snack.”

“Kazuma, I’d like to have a word with you, so please come with me.”

“That’s not it! I mean, I did tell her to say that to you in return for a snack, but that’s not why I called you here. Your sister has summoned a devil!”

I hastily explained while handing the snack over to Komekko.

In response, Megumin simply sighed.

“That’s something that every Crimson Demon does at some point. I used to perform the ritual to summon the God of Destruction when I was a kid.”

“Don’t say that with such a nostalgic expression! ... Wait, what!? So, you’re saying it’s fine!? But Komekko was saying something about a small goblin...”

Perhaps finding my panicked demeanor amusing, Megumin let out a small chuckle.

“Summoning devils requires an extremely difficult and delicate ritual. On top of that, even if one has the talent to be a devil summoner, it would take at least a decade of hard work to summon even an imp, the weakest type of devil.”

“Seriously?”

But if that’s the case, what Komekko was talking about...?

“Plus, even if the ritual does succeed, a goblin isn’t a devil, so there’s no way it’d be summoned. Komekko, you shouldn’t tease him too much, okay?”

“Okay.”

“Right then, I’ll get back to the housework. Please play with each other, alright?”

After patting Komekko on the head, Megumin went back into the house.

... So she was just teasing me...

I thought that I just ran into yet another troublesome incident, but I guess it was just my imagination.

Seriously, these two sisters keep throwing me for a loop.

“See, your sister got angry because you said such things. It’s a little

hypocritical coming from me, but lying is bad, okay?"

"I didn't lie."

Her stubbornness is just like that of her sister's.

"But Megumin just said it, didn't she? You can't summon a goblin with a summoning ritual."

"But it came out. I gave it the shell of a cicada as an offering, but it just scolded me. 'Don't call upon me without a proper offering. I'll let you off this time, so don't do it again.' it said."

... ...

That bad feeling came back.

"Say, can you describe that goblin to me?"

Just in case, I confirmed with Komekko...

"It was really small and black, and had claws, wings, and a tail."

"Megumin! Come over here, quick!"